

Elizabeth's story

Valerie Grove meets Sarah Bradford, biographer of the Queen, page 14
TOMORROW: a portrait of a very royal marriage



The heart of Flamenco

Spanish steps that guarantee a British following
PAGE 32



Smouldering passion

The women who like a good cigar,
PAGE 15



EDUCATION

Student loans: why are they now going wrong?
PAGE 30



'Why Tories are unpopular'

Thatcher blames disappointment of the middle classes

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

BARONESS THATCHER delivered a punishing blow to John Major's attempts to bind the Conservative Party together last night when she scolded the "one-nation" Tory tradition and accused his Government of betraying the middle classes.

The Prime Minister's hopes of a new year truce between his party's warring factions were blown apart as his predecessor said that the party was in trouble because Tory performance and policies had not lived up to its principles.

She rejected the policy agenda of the Conservative Left and told Mr Major that a shift to the centre ground made no political sense. She condemned the pro-European wing led by Sir Edward Heath as "no-nation Conservatives".

The idea that the Conservatives were in trouble because they had moved to the right was "baloney", Lady Thatcher said in her most important speech on domestic policy since leaving office in 1990.

And she appeared to challenge directly Mr Major's warning to his Cabinet against indulging in debate about Britain's part in a European single currency. Avoiding debate about the big issues led to directionless failure, she said.

Her Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture, awaited with apprehension by her party, was more damaging than Downing Street had feared because of the starkness of her assessment of why the Conservatives are in such a difficult plight.

She told her audience to

consider why people were discontented. Was it because the Government had not spent, borrowed and taxed enough, or was it because the Government had gone too far towards increasing government spending, borrowing and taxation.

She then said, in the most wounding jibe: "The answer is obvious. We are unpopular, above all, because the middle classes, and all those who aspire to join the middle classes, feel that they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government."

Ignoring Mr Major's plea for unity, she said that "splits and disagreements over important issues never did a

Thatcher speech 9
Peter Riddell 9
Leading article 17

party so much harm as the absence of honest, principled debate". And she poured salt in the wounds by singling out for praise the Cabinet rightwingers Michael Portillo, Peter Lilley and Michael Howard — and the leadership challenger John Redwood — without mentioning any other minister by name.

Conservative MPs, including those on the right, were staggered by her outspokenness, although party officials described the speech as a helpful restatement of the Conservative case and main-

tained that they were relaxed about it. Mr Major was reported to be unmoved, while Mr Redwood described the speech as a "knockout performance — star quality".

Lady Thatcher excoriated "malcontents" who claimed the Tories were in trouble because they had shifted rightwards, saying: "I am not sure what is meant by those who say that the party should return to something called one-nation Conservatism. As far as I can tell by their views on European federalism, such people's creed would better be described as no-nation Conservatism."

"And certainly anyone who believes that salvation is to be found further away from the basic Conservative principles which prevailed in the 1980s — small government, a property-owning democracy, tax cuts, deregulation and national sovereignty — is profoundly mistaken."

Lady Thatcher launched a strong attack on Tony Blair's "new Labour", but was restrained about Mr Blair himself. She admitted for the first time that there had been differences between herself and Mr Major — about how to achieve objectives rather than the objectives themselves — and she even acknowledged that her own governments had made mistakes.

But these were eclipsed by the passion of her call for a return to the rightwing creed that sustained her governments. "The Conservative Party has problems not because our analysis has been wrong



Voters "feel they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government"

or our principles faulty," she said. "Our difficulties are due to the fact that, in certain limited but important respects, our policies and performance have not lived up to our analysis and principles. That is why the current idea, put around by some malcontents, that the Conservative Party is in trouble because it has moved to the right — and that this 'is what needs to be remedied — is baloney."

Lady Thatcher's supporters said that she was trying to deliver some home truths that would help, not hinder, her party's chances of re-election. She said it was time to spell out the objectives clearly so that a re-elected Conservative Government could go further toward fulfilling them. "The attractions of opposition are greatly exaggerated by those who have not experienced it," she said.

"Judging from the opinion polls, opposition is where the electorate is at present inclined to send us. For a variety of reasons, I believe that this would be ill-judged. The Conservative Party still has much to offer. And from Mr Blair's new — or not so new — Labour Party there is much to fear. But we must not ignore the present discontent."

Labour seized on the speech as further evidence of Tory disunity. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "Margaret Thatcher has taken the Prime Minister prisoner. Lady Thatcher has deliberately turned her back on one-nation Tories, and claimed John Major's agreement with her broad analysis. It is now up to him to say whether he sees himself in the tradition of Thatcher and Keith Joseph or the one-nation tradition of Disraeli and Macleod."

Ancient backing group for the same old song

By Matthew Parris

Y ou always know what Margaret Thatcher means. Her assertions are unequivocal, her equivocations are pointed and her silences thunder. She has always believed the same things, she always says the same things, and she said them again yesterday.

She was saying them to a curious crowd. The small room contained, as it were, a great heritage collection, broken up in an untimely way some six years ago and scattered to the four corners of the globe, now recollected in the presence of its erstwhile curator. This was a regathering of the Thatcher diaspora.

Elderly people who were young when Keith Joseph was young, the middle-aged, to whom the baroness was the central political memory, and younger men and women for whom she is the mascot and Michael Portillo the leader-in-waiting were there. He, too, was there, impressive as she praised him.

She praised Mr Redwood, too. She praised Michael Howard and Peter Lilley. She — well — mentioned the Prime Minister, but not quite by name.

With age comes a widening and deepening of the sources for which Lady Thatcher assumes philosophical, even spiritual, authority. Once it was Keith Joseph. He persuaded her to include Hayek. Later, Ronald Reagan joined the club. Churchill was increasingly mentioned.

But in yesterday's speech Continued on page 2, col 4

Cannabis worth £55m is seized

Shots were fired yesterday as police and customs officers seized 18 tonnes of cannabis worth £55 million at Erith, southeast London.

The haul, Britain's biggest, was discovered during a search of a container which had arrived at Felixstowe on January 5. Seven people have been arrested.

£1,000 bonuses

More than 34 million savers and borrowers with the Woolwich Building Society stand to receive bonus payouts worth an average of £1,000 when it becomes a stock market company next year. Only those with the company before December 31 last will benefit. Page 21

England win

England's cricketers overcame the distraction of a floodlight failure to win the second one-day international against South Africa by five wickets. Graham Thorpe was unbeaten on 72. Page 40

Internet Times

The Internet edition of The Times is now available on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



TV & RADIO	38, 39
WEATHER	20
CROSSWORDS	20, 40

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Win a £22,995 Honda Shuttle, in Car 96

Take a friend to the theatre for 30p, reader offer in Weekend

PLUS The Magazine, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

Mitterrand families unite

FROM KATE MUIR, IN PARIS

THE two families of Francois Mitterrand — one official and the other clandestine — were united for the first time at his funeral yesterday, in accordance with his last wishes.

Anne Pingot, the former French President's mistress, and their daughter Mazarine, stood in mourning alongside Danielle Mitterrand, her two sons and grandchildren.

In their first public appearance together, Mitterrand's widow, his mistress and their children — accompanied the coffin in a military plane from Paris to the air base at Cognac, near his birthplace of Jarnac.

The procession through Jarnac to the Church of St Pierre was led by Mme Mitterrand, in black with a white scarf. She held the arm of one son, Jean-Christophe, and was followed by the other, Gilbert. Behind came Mme Pingot, her face hidden by a black veil, arm-in-arm with Mazarine.

The families, who had led quite separate lives with M



Daughter Mazarine, turned into public figure

Mitterrand, were united in his loss. The implications of this public acknowledgment were probably far from their thoughts, but the death of her father has turned Mazarine from an almost unknown student at the Sorbonne into a public figure.

Her strong resemblance, at 21, to her father in his youth was noted by those who first saw them together in photographs in Paris Match two years ago. French privacy

laws and a certain collusion among journalists prevented details of the former President's best-known secret from leaking out earlier, although he did admit in 1984 to having an illegitimate daughter.

Mme Pingot is a curator of sculpture at the Musée D'Orsay in Paris. After M Mitterrand became President, he cited security reasons and moved Mazarine and her mother to a government apartment on the Quai Branly near the Eiffel Tower, where he was a regular visitor. Mme Mitterrand remained at their apartment on the Rue du Bievre, also on the Left Bank, where M Mitterrand was said to come for Saturday lunch and Sunday dinner.

Even on country weekends, M Mitterrand distributed his time, taking Mazarine to the presidential chateau outside Paris. His country house at Latche was the site for official family gatherings with his sons and grandchildren.

Separate farewells, page 10
Photograph, page 20

Police hold fan of Princess

By Joanna Bale

BERNARD QUINN, an obsessed fan of the Princess Royal, was arrested in Liverpool last night 25 minutes before she was due to attend an official engagement in the city.

The Princess was visiting St Nicholas's church in Titebarn Street at 5pm to meet members of a victim support scheme. Her arrival passed without incident but police disclosed later that Quinn, 53, from Westonsuper-Mare, had been arrested nearby shortly before.

He was charged with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace and is due to appear before Liverpool City Magistrates Court today. He was being held in custody overnight. Police had staged a massive security operation during the visit amid fears for the safety of the Princess.

Britain squeezes juice concession out of EU

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

BRITONS were spared a 30p-a-litre rise in the price of freshly squeezed orange juice last night after the European Commission answered a government appeal to cut the cost of imported oranges.

The move will help to safeguard hundreds of jobs and ensure the

continuation of a peculiarly British habit because no one else in the EU has developed a freshly squeezed orange juice industry. The business is worth £12 million in the UK and directly employs 600 people, but it came under threat when new world trade accord tariffs were placed on imported fruit to protect EU growers.

Caught in the trap was the Late Valencia orange — unavailable in

Europe between December and April — but the only fruit which meets exacting British standards for freshly-squeezed juice. Britain imports 67,500 tonnes of juicing oranges a year, all but 7,500 tonnes from outside the EU.

The concession to Britain, by far the biggest market for fresh juice in Europe, is technically valid only until March 31, but negotiators are confident they will be able to get it extended.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, hailed the reprieve. He said the increase would have sounded the death knell for an innovative UK industry. "The battle is not yet over and we must now work for a permanent solution."

Without the concession the average shop price of fresh orange juice would have gone up from £2.99 to £2.69 a litre next month.

ARTS	32-34
CHESS & BRIDGE	37
COURT & SOCIAL	18

SPORT	35-38, 40
LAW REPORT	31
EDUCATION	30

LETTERS	17, 37
OBITUARIES	19
BERNARD LEVIN	16

سكرا من الامم

98 Cynsham Rd.
 Banwell,
 Weston-super-Mare,
 Avon.

Dear Volkswagen,

I have a real problem. My little boy, James, was absolutely thrilled when I bought my Golf. All the other boys looked on enviously when I picked him up from school - nobody else's father owns a Volkswagen.

Unfortunately one of his friends found out it only cost £10,500 - the same price as his own father's car.

Suddenly, poor James was nothing special. No one wanted to play with him any more. He has even been dropped from the under-10 football team.

Do you think you could write him a letter and tell him there's been a bit of a mix-up and that Daddy's Golf cost more than £10,500?

I know it's a fib but he's not talking to me.

Yours faithfully,

John Latimore.



RECEIVED

THE TIMES
 Challenger will ear
Balloon g
 in the rac
 first round



Setting the
 in p



DAY DELIVERY

Tel 0181 758 7

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND YOUR FREE COPY

Challenger will carry revolvers as guard against war zones and to repel grizzly bears

Balloon goes up in the race to be first round globe

By OLIVER AUGUST AND MARK FULLER

RICHARD BRANSON faces a challenger in the race to become the first balloonist to fly round the world. Henk Brink, a 52-year-old Dutch helicopter pilot and adventurer, expects to launch his attempt from the Dutch town of Nijmegen early next week.

His high-tech equipment matches Mr Branson's and Mr Brink is confident he can outpace the Virgin chairman, who is due to lift off from Morocco, also next week.

The challenge to Mr Branson is more real than that of the American balloonist Steve Fossett, who crash landed in New Brunswick, Canada, on Wednesday.

A spokesman for Herr Brink said: "Weather conditions are becoming extremely favourable and a launch could be possible from Monday onwards."

Mr Brink intends that his *Unicef Flyer* balloon should be propelled initially by the polar and then the sub-tropical jet stream. The Dutch balloon will travel east over more than 90 countries, from Europe, through Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, America and the Atlantic before landing "east of Nijmegen — anywhere between Norway and North Africa".

The Dutch team has been ready to take off since December, waiting for ideal weather conditions: no wind on the ground and a ferocious jet stream.

Mr Brink said: "The flight is virtually in the realm of space travel. At a height of 12 kilometres, the temperature is -55C and the air pressure two tenths of a bar. This means the craft's design has to be extremely high-tech and costly."

The 200ft *Unicef Flyer* is a compound balloon, with an upper compartment filled with helium and a lower section that contains hot air heated by propane burners.

At night when the helium contracts without the warmth from sunlight, the burners



Branson: Morocco start



Brink: Dutch lift-off

the speed of normal jet streams. Per Lindstrum, who will accompany Mr Branson, said: "The temperature will tell us when we are in jet max. When it suddenly turns colder we know we have picked one up." The third member of the Branson team is Rory McCarthy.

The crew of each balloon will spend their days crouched inside the capsule, which is only big enough for one person to stand up in.

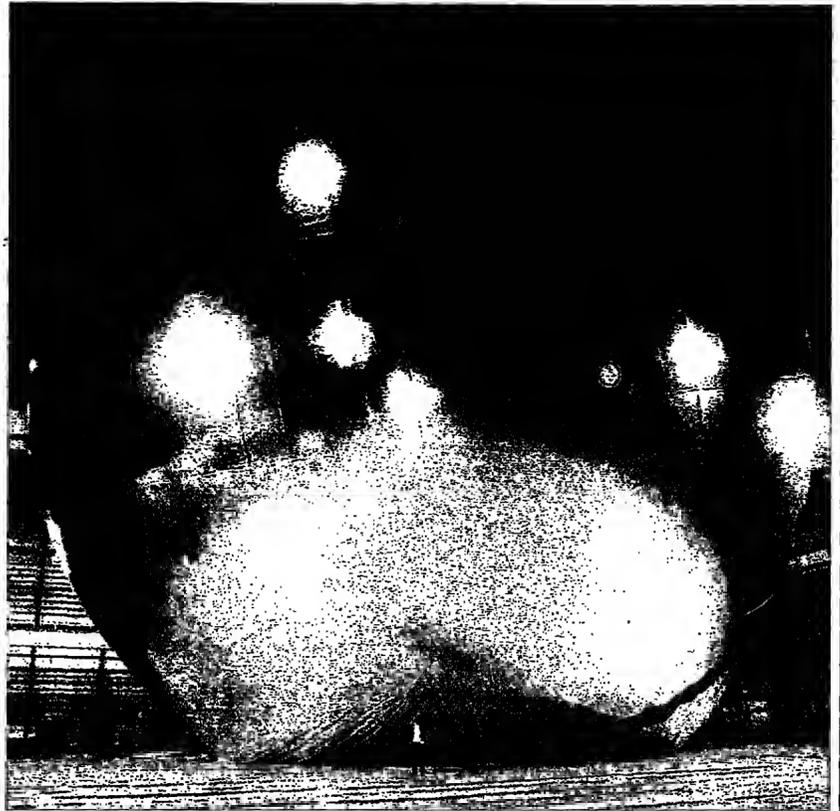
The balloons will have the same navigation instruments as planes, including a collision-warning system. Air traffic controllers around the world will monitor their progress and redirect planes away from them.

Over the Atlantic when there is no radar they will make their positions known via radio. At 175ft Mr Branson's *Virgin Global Challenger* is slightly smaller than Mr Brink's.

The *Virgin Global Challenger* was tested yesterday in a huge hangar at Cammell Laird shipyard on Merseyside in preparation for the launch near Marrakech. The yard is one of the few places big enough to inflate and test it under cover. About 20 workers were called in to sweep the main hangar's floor clean of any debris to make sure there was no risk of anything puncturing the material.

Mr Brink will be accompanied by Colonel William Hageman, a 48-year-old Dutch military attaché to Canada and former F16 pilot. A third crew member, Wout Bakker, 32, a communications specialist who was selected from 1,400 applications, unexpectedly pulled out of the mission last month for "serious personal reasons", although there were suggestions he was unhappy with the safety precautions.

Mr Brink response was: "The crew will have parachutes and be armed with revolvers in case we come down in a war zone or a wilderness with a grizzly bear close by."



The *Virgin Global Challenger* undergoing a test inflation at the Cammell Laird shipyard yesterday

Branson sued over lottery claim

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

GUY SNOWDEN, the chairman of the American lottery contractor GTEch, is suing Richard Branson for defamation over claims that he tried to bribe the Virgin entrepreneur to pull out of the bidding to run the National Lottery.

Mr Snowden has repeatedly denied Mr Branson's allegations, which were made during a *Panorama* programme last month. It is understood that he decided to sue when Mr Branson threatened earlier this week not to co-operate with an independent inquiry into the allegations set up by Oflot, the lottery regulator.

"I have taken this action to restore my good name," Mr Snowden said yesterday. He said he intended to co-operate with the Oflot inquiry.

The fact that Mr Snowden is suing only Mr Branson, and not *Panorama* or the BBC who were responsible for broadcasting the allegations, suggests that the dispute between the two men has become personal. Mr Branson also seems to be taking the affair personally. He initially issued a writ for

libel on December 15 against GTEch — which has a 22 per cent stake in Camelot, the lottery operator — and Robert Rendine, its director of communications, for branding him a liar. He issued a second writ on January 2, this time naming Mr Snowden.

A spokesman for Mr Branson said that he stood by everything he has said. "We will vigorously defend the action and look forward to seeing Mr Snowden in court."

It is likely that the three cases will be consolidated, although it will be months before the action comes to court. The case relates to a lunch at Mr Branson's west London home in September 1993 where he claims Mr Snowden attempted to bribe him not to bid for the lottery contract. John Jackson, who set up Mr Branson's lottery bid and who is now chief executive of Skitchley, was at the lunch and has supported Mr Branson's version of events.

The case is likely to cast a shadow over the official Oflot inquiry, which is expected to be held behind closed doors and last two to three weeks.

Tornado crewmen survive new crash

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO more RAF crewmen escaped yesterday when another Tornado crashed during a training flight in Germany. It was the third Tornado to be lost in two days, after the mid-air collision between two F3 air defence aircraft over Lincolnshire on Wednesday.

Yesterday's incident involved a GR1 strike aircraft which was flying with two other Tornados near Münster when it dived and hit open ground. The navigator was seriously injured but the pilot suffered only minor injuries.

The jets were flying at medium level — more than 10,000ft — because regular low-level training is banned in Germany.

The latest crash means that the RAF has lost 22 Tornados, both the air defence and strike versions, since 1990. A replacement costs up to £25 million. The toll of crashes reads: five in 1990, four in 1991, none in 1992, one in 1993, six in 1994, three last year and three so far this year.

A board of inquiry was set up to investigate yesterday's incident which happened at about 3pm local time near the town of Albstadt, south of Münster. The three Tornados, which were on a training sortie, were from 14 Squadron based at RAF Brüggen.

The other two Tornados were not involved in the incident and returned to their base. The crewmen of the doomed Tornado were picked up by RAF search and rescue helicopters after ejecting from the aircraft. The pilot was taken to an RAF hospital and the navigator to a German military hospital.

A spokeswoman for the British forces in Germany said the cause of the crash was unknown. The Tornado was carrying a number of practice bombs made of plastic and cement, which contain no explosive.

Preliminary inquiries have established that the two aircraft destroyed on Wednesday, from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, were not at 800ft as claimed by witnesses. They collided at 14,000ft a few minutes after take-off.

Setting the standards in personal computing.



Whatever sort of day you have, trust Viglen to make your life easier.

A range of PCs with a unique combination of leading edge technology and tremendous value, every one of Viglen's products has built-in upgradability for future developments and lifetime technical support — your guarantee of peace of mind!

Little wonder that Viglen's products have won countless awards time and time again, or that Viglen is a leading supplier not only to businesses all over the UK but also government, public sector, education and the home market.

And because you're buying direct from a leading British manufacturer, you're also guaranteed unbeatable value for money, delivered right to your door.

See how Viglen can change your life, whether you use your PC for work or for play.

Prices for a Viglen Multimedia system with a 75MHz Pentium Processor start from only £1069 (£1273.70 inc delivery+VAT) and go all the way up to £2799 (£3306.45 inc delivery+VAT) for a fully featured top of the range Genie PCI Multimedia PC with 133MHz Pentium Processor.

Call 0181 758 7000 to place your order or for your free copy of the Viglen Direct Guide, and we guarantee you'll never look back.

THE VIGLEN HOME MULTIMEDIA PC
75MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR

- Viglen Controller Exclusive ES System
- 8MB RAM
- 540MB HD
- 14" SVGA Colour Monitor
- Microsoft Mouse
- Quad speed CD ROM Drive
- PCI Graphics Card
- Stereo Speakers & Microphone
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Six Software Titles as shown

£1069 inc delivery+VAT
£1273.70 inc delivery+VAT



Tel 0181 758 7000 Fax 0181 758 7080

Viglen

Viglen Limited, Viglen House, Alpeston Lane, Alpeston, Middlesex HA0 1DX.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND YOUR FREE COPY OF THE VIGLEN DIRECT GUIDE PHONE OR RETURN THE COUPON

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Please send the more information on the Viglen range of personal computers. Business/Education use Home Personal use

Computer, Genie and Viglen are trademarks of Viglen Limited. Microsoft, MS-DOS, Windows 95 and the Microsoft Ready to Run logo are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other trademarks are acknowledged.

APOLOGY.

Following the success of their TESSA, Halifax Building Society would like to apologise to the Inland Revenue for all the disappointment and lost revenue it has caused them.

More people have taken out a TESSA with the Halifax than with anyone else. Over the five year term, Halifax TESSA has given the best return of any top ten financial institution! And now we've launched Halifax TESSA 2. What's more, you may be able to choose a fixed rate option! For more details contact any branch of Halifax Building Society or call free on 0800 10 11 10 for an information pack.



Get a little extra help.

TOP TEN UK FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BASED ON TOTAL ASSETS AND IS RICH FROM LAST YEAR'S ACCOUNTS RECORDS. ABOUT PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT NECESSARILY GIVE A GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE. TO CHOOSE A FIXED RATE OPTION YOU MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT CAPITAL IN YOUR FIRST TESSA WHICH IT MATCHES AND PRESS IT IN ONE LUMP SUM IN A HALIFAX TESSA 2. HOWEVER WE MAY OFFER DIFFERENT FIXED RATES TO FUTURE INVESTORS WHEN THEY OPEN A HALIFAX TESSA 2 WITH THE FIXED RATE OPTION. THE INTEREST RATE WHICH WILL APPLY TO YOUR ACCOUNT IF YOU TAKE THE FIXED RATE OPTION WILL BE FIXED ON THE START DATE OF YOUR HALIFAX TESSA 2 AND WILL NOT CHANGE DURING THE FIVE YEAR TERM. THE FIXED RATE FOR YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE SET ON YOUR CERTIFICATE OF INVESTMENT. INTEREST RATES MAY CHANGE FOR THE VARIABLE RATE OPTION. THE MAXIMUM OPENING BALANCE FOR A HALIFAX TESSA 2 IS £50 AND YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 18 TO OPEN ONE. INTEREST CAN BE WITHDRAWN FROM A HALIFAX TESSA 2 BEFORE IT MATURES FROM AN INSTANT EQUITY TO BASIC RATE INCOME TAX ON THAT INTEREST IF YOU WANT TO CLOSE OR TRANSFER YOUR ACCOUNT. ACCOUNT WILL NO LONGER QUALIFY AS A TESSA IF YOU CHOOSE THE FIXED RATE OPTION. YOU MUST GIVE AT LEAST 90 DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE IF YOU WANT TO CLOSE OR TRANSFER YOUR ACCOUNT. DURING THE FIVE YEAR TERM AN ADMINISTRATION FEE OF £10 WILL BE CHARGED IF A HALIFAX TESSA 2 IS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION. "FREE" MEANS FREE OF INCOME TAX COPIES OF THE ACCOUNT STATEMENTS, NOT FREE OF ALL FEES AS SET OUT IN THE HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY TRUSTY TRUST, HALIFAX, 1991 200.



صكازامن الاصل

A health service without a bed available when needed is a deception, say Lib Dems

Doctors blame casualty crisis on the Government

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITALS are cracking under the strain of a surge in emergency admissions that has caused casualty units to close and patients to be turned away, doctors' leaders said yesterday.

The British Medical Association said pressure had been building for two or three years and had reached crisis point in some hospitals. It blamed "cash-driven rather than care-driven policies" for the closure of beds. Emergency admissions rose by more than 6 per cent last year but funding for emergency work had been cut by 1 to 2 per cent. The BMA said. Earlier research showed a 13 per cent rise in emergency admissions in the previous four years.

Over the same period, since 1991, 9,000 acute beds have been lost, 7 per cent of the total, as hospitals treat patients more quickly and focus on day surgery. The BMA said



Geoffrey Cranswick died soon after admission

the closures had gone too far. Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA, said: "There is a potentially lethal cocktail of problems - a lack of slack in the system due to the run down in beds, staff shortages because many youngsters are fed up and a disastrous shortfall in community care." Hos-

pitals were running at 90 to 95 per cent of capacity, leaving no flexibility for peaks and troughs in demand. In winter, flu, accidents and falls, and illness caused by the cold weather all increased demand. Doctors say that they cannot admit patients for whom they do not have beds, staff or resources and GPs spend hours phoning in the search for beds.

Dr Macara said: "There are reports of a situation in some hospitals that can only be described as a crisis. We don't know how widespread it is but we want action to avert a national crisis."

It emerged yesterday that staff at the Bradford Royal Infirmary in West Yorkshire had spent more than two hours trying to find an intensive care place for Geoffrey Cranswick, 66, after he collapsed in his doctor's surgery last Tuesday. Nine hospitals were unable to offer a bed and Mr Cranswick was eventually flown 70 miles to Scarborough

by police helicopter. He died 20 minutes after arriving, although medical staff say that his condition was so poor the delay probably made little difference.

Yesterday a Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust spokesman said it was affected by the nationwide shortage of nursing staff. The infirmary has only five intensive care beds for a population of about 500,000. On the day Mr Cranswick was brought in, one bed was empty, but could not be used because of a staff shortage.

There was embarrassment at the trust when it emerged later that Mr Cranswick, a former policeman who retired at the age of 47, had raised thousands of pounds for the British Heart Foundation. Mr Cranswick's MP, Gerry Sutcliffe, the member for Bradford South, is taking up the case with Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

Michael Heseltine said the increase in emergency admis-



Staff at Bradford Royal Infirmary contacted ten hospitals to find an intensive care bed for Mr Cranswick

sions was "a matter of concern to the Government". Announcing a review of emergency care by Sir Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer, the Deputy Prime Minister said all necessary steps would be taken to deal with the problem. "The whole House is deeply preoccupied

with the standards of the health service and to ensure that they are maintained."

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, disclosed that he had written to all NHS trusts telling them to introduce measures to deal with the staff shortage in accident and emergency departments. These in-

clude allowing nurses to perform a wider range of tasks and incentives to encourage more junior doctors to train in casualty. The BMA said it had identified the problems in Scotland, Wales, Bristol, Southampton, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham, Not-

tingham and London. Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrats' health spokesman, said the Government was responsible for ensuring there were enough beds. "An NHS without a bed conveniently available at the time of most acute need is a contradiction and a deception."

Dead bodies left on ward as cold adds to pressure

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

PRESSURE for beds in Scottish hospitals has led to cancellation of thousands of routine operations and left Glasgow hospitals so short of mortuary space that they have had to leave dead bodies on a ward.

The shortage of beds was exacerbated by the recent cold spell, which saw temperatures in central Scotland dip to -19C.

At Glasgow Royal Infirmary bodies were left on trolleys in a ward because the mortuary was unable to cope. A hospital spokesman said that emergency admissions had gone up from an average 15 a day to 56, and there had been a peak of 70. So far this week 72 elective operations had been cancelled.

The number of deaths in the hospital has risen from three a day to an average of five, and on one day there were 11. The holidays have meant that undertakers and crematoriums have been shut. The average time in Glasgow before burial has risen from four days to eight days.

Glasgow Royal Infirmary would normally use the city mortuary or another hospital mortuary to store bodies temporarily but those were also full. At the city's Victoria Infirmary bodies were kept in corridors on trolleys within the mortuary area and at Stobhill Hospital they were kept on the floor of the mortuary.

The British Medical Association in Scotland said it was aware of problems across the country, particularly in the Borders, Lothian, Strathclyde and Tayside where operations have been cancelled to cope with emergency admissions.

Lothian Health Board issued a red alert on January 3, which meant that all hospitals

in the region were put on standby to expect a sharp increase in the number of referrals. That led to the cancellation of 334 planned operations across Lothian in the last week.

Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, the main teaching hospital attached to the university, has seen a 20 per cent rise in emergency admissions in the past two years. Derek Maclean, the hospital's director of medical services, has appealed to GPs to find alternatives to admissions wherever possible.

The hospital is also appealing for qualified nursing staff who are on holiday or not working to report for work. It needs about a hundred additional nurses to cope with the present workload.

This week 49 routine operations have had to be cancelled. From Monday a short-stay surgical ward will be turned into a medical ward, which will mean the cancellation of a further 45 operations.

Dr Maclean said the cost-effectiveness drive was partly to blame. "In the past there was a lot more slack in the system and we could cope with peaks when they came along." He said staff were extremely concerned about the level of service they would be able to give in future.

Healthcare spending per head in Scotland is 23 per cent higher than in England, the Scottish Office said yesterday. In the current year the Government will spend £820 for every man, woman and child in Scotland, compared with £667 in England.

The reduction in hospital beds is continuing. In Scotland 5,000 acute medical beds have been earmarked for closure by 2000.

Hospital juggles trolleys and chairs

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THREE temporary beds had to be set up in operating theatres and seven in the accident and emergency department to accommodate a rush of patients at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, last Tuesday.

Dr John Thurston, consultant in charge of the A&E department, said he had had to take two patients off trolleys and sit them in chairs to make way for others who were more ill.

"It was a nightmare night. The last two weeks have been the busiest in the 17 years I have been here," Dr Thurston said.

"At one point I came across a man standing in the middle of the department ash-faced. I asked him if he was all right and he said he had a crushing pain across his chest. I realised immediately he was having a heart attack but we had no more trolleys, so I had to move an old lady off one and sit her in a chair."

St Helier Hospital, in nearby Carshalton, ran out of casualty trolleys two weeks ago and ambulances had to wait while doctors treated patients on their stretchers in the corridors.

Karen Jones, the nurse in charge of the A&E department, said: "We have never refused to see anyone but we regularly have patients waiting on ambulance trolleys and we bring beds down for patients in the department overnight."

Queen Mary's, St Helier and four other hospitals in the south London area asked to close their A&E departments recently because of the pressure but London Ambulance Service refused to allow them, saying it would have nowhere to take emergency patients.

The medical directors of the six hospitals have written to William Wells, chairman of South Thames Regional Health Authority, demanding action to relieve the pressure. One had a 22 per cent rise in accident and emergency admissions during the past year, the others about 14 per cent.

Dr Thurston, who is registrar of the Faculty of A&E Medicine, said: "All A&E departments are experiencing the same problem. We don't know why there has been this sudden rise in emergencies. There is no flu epidemic and it is not the cold weather. No one can explain it."

Bargain basement
(Semi-terraced, bungalow or detached)

FIXED RATES FROM

2.45%
APR

2.6%
APR

FIXED UNTIL JANUARY 97

Introducing an unbeatable, impossible to ignore, once in a lifetime offer.

The incredible fixed rate mortgage from Alliance & Leicester.

Are we asking 5%? Are we asking 4%?

No, at Alliance & Leicester all you pay is 2.45% (2.6% APR), not 8 pence more.

And for the light sleepers amongst you, the rate is fixed until Jan. January 1997 or if you prefer,

you can fix your mortgage right up to the new millennium. Yes, rates are going down.

Alliance & Leicester can help you the mortgage of your dreams.

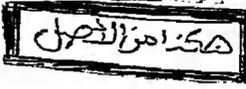
To find out more, come on down to your local Alliance & Leicester branch, or call 0800 412 214 for more information.

But remember, a good thing can come to an end. So hurry, hurry.

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

NOTE: ABOVE IS FOR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES OF UP TO 95% OF THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY OR ITS PURCHASE PRICE (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER). APR QUOTED IS FOR MORTGAGES ON AN ENDOWMENT BASIS. ALTHOUGH THE SOCIETY'S FIXED RATE MORTGAGES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON A REPAYMENT OR PRINCIPAL-INTEREST BASIS, THE FIXED RATE OF 2.45% ONLY APPLIES UNTIL THE 1ST JANUARY 1997. THE APR AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE HAVE BEEN CALCULATED ON THE BASIS THAT THE VARIABLE RATE WILL BE THE SAME AS THE FIXED RATE THROUGHOUT THE TERM OF THE MORTGAGE. IN PRACTICE HOWEVER, AT THE END OF THE FIXED RATE PERIOD, THE SOCIETY'S VARIABLE BASIC RATE (CURRENTLY 7.49% PER ANNUM) WILL BE CHARGED. IF YOUR MORTGAGE IS REPAYMENT TYPE, THE SOCIETY'S VARIABLE BASIC RATE ON FIXED RATE MORTGAGES WILL BE APPLICABLE TO THE AMOUNT REMAINING ON THE MORTGAGE. FOR ENDOWMENT MORTGAGES AN APPROPRIATE ENDOWMENT POLICY FOR THE AMOUNT AND TERM OF THE LOAN MUST ALSO BE ARRANGED (PREMIUMS WILL BE PAYABLE TO A LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE POLICY). YOUR HOME IS SECURITY FOR THE LOAN AND MUST BE ADEQUATELY INSURED. LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND VALUATION AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AGED 18 OR OVER. WRITE FOR QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. FOR LOANS EXCEEDING 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER) A MORTGAGE INTEREST POLICY WILL BE REQUIRED. RATES ARE CORRECT AS AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. MORTGAGES ARE SUBJECT TO 1% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE/VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY OR 1% OF THE LOAN (WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER) OR 1% PER YEAR (WHICHEVER IS THE HIGHER) FOR OVER 10 YEARS. ALL APPLICANTS, IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES, WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A MORTGAGE ARRANGEMENT FEE OF £200. MORTGAGE GUARANTEE PREMIUM OF 0.5% PER ANNUM. SOCIETY'S MORTGAGE CHARGE OF 0.5% PER ANNUM. DEEDS PREPARATION CHARGE £15.00 AND £25.00 RESPECTIVELY A REPAIRING CHARGE. APR QUOTED IS VARIABLE AND CAN VARY SLIGHTLY ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. EXAMPLE: £20,000 LOAN, 2.45% FIXED UNTIL JANUARY 1997, LOAN FOR 10 YEARS (10% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE/VALUATION OF THE PROPERTY). £200 ARRANGEMENT FEE FOR 10 YEARS ON A PROPERTY VALUED AT £100,000. INTEREST PAID OF 2.45% PER ANNUM WITH THE FIRST MONTHLY INTEREST ONLY PAYMENT OF £58.10 (ROUNDED UP) INCLUDING ACCRUED INTEREST, FOLLOWED BY 59 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £58.10. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £12,112.81. IF YOUR MORTGAGE IS REPAYMENT TYPE, THE FIXED RATE PERIOD TO WHICH THE VARIABLE RATE WILL BE CHARGED AT THE END OF THE FIXED RATE PERIOD, AND 8% MONTHLY ADDITIONAL GROSS INTEREST AT THE SOCIETY'S VARIABLE BASIC RATE ON THE AMOUNT REMAINING ON THE MORTGAGE. FULL DETAILS ABOUT THESE MORTGAGES INCLUDING ANY CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH, ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, HOME ADMINISTRATION, HOME PACK, NOW, OR BY TELEPHONE ON 0800 412 214. REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE SCOTTISH AMICABLE BUILDING SOCIETY, FOR LIFE ASSURANCE, PERSONAL AND INVESTMENT SERVICES. JANUARY 1996.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.



Money drags back Sex Pistols, spitting and screaming

Frank Sinatra can do it, the Beatles do it, even ageing punks the Sex Pistols do it. Dominic Kennedy reports on an unlikely revival of the 1970s good old days

THE Sex Pistols, the spitting standard-bearers of punk who incited a generation to rebel against their elders and to reject ageing pop stars, are threatening to regroup just as they are turning 40.

The 1970s band, vilified for describing the monarchy as a fascist regime in their single *God Save The Queen*, hope to begin a world tour in America in the spring, followed by dates in the United Kingdom, Europe and Asia.

Last night, the rock world was divided between former fans who said the Sinatra-style comeback was a denial of everything the movement once stood for, and those who said it merely renewed their old cynical sense of fun.

Some 17 years after the band's demise, its members are being lured by the prospect of riches from a new generation of fans reared on American neo-punk bands such as Green Day and the guitar-dominated sound of Britpop. Bass guitarist Sid Vicious died of a heroin overdose in 1979, but the

Pistols have invited back their original bassist, Glen Matlock, who turns 40 in August. Steve Jones, 40 last year, is back on guitar with drummer Paul Cook, 40 in July, and singer Johnny Rotten, now using his real name John Lydon. He is 40 on January 31. All have been working musicians for many years. Lydon told the *New Musical Express* that his plans for 1996 are "disturbing, shocking, disrupting and definitely newsworthy".

Former punk writer Tony Parsons said yesterday that the group was wrong to return, but he could not resist a little nostalgia. Now a respectable commentator on the arts, he last saw the Pistols on Jubilee Day in 1977 at their infamous riverboat concert on the Thames.

"The boat was pulled to one side and the event was very violently smashed up by the river police," he said. "That was absolutely wonderful."

"The idea of Johnny Rotten as this kind of ridiculous pantomime dame aping the



Seventies icons: from left, a young Steve Jones, Glen Matlock, Johnny Rotten, Paul Cook and, right, Sid Vicious

anger of his youth is quite depressing. They should sack Rotten and get Victor Meldrew as the true voice of middle-aged rebellion.

"The Sex Pistols wanted to get rid of everything. That was justified because in those days there was a rock establishment to kick over."

Vivienne Westwood, the tailor of punk, has become an acclaimed fashion designer. Mark Palmer, her personal

assistant, said: "She is not interested in youth culture. She considers that exercise in punk to have been a rebellion against the Establishment and she grew out of that."

Edward Tudor-Pole, 38, who as Eddy Tenpole briefly replaced Rotten as lead singer of the Pistols until Vicious died and the band folded, was more enthusiastic. He has an adult career as an actor and presenter of *The Crystal*

Maze on Channel 4 but still takes his old punk band, Tenpole Tudor, on the road for annual tours.

"It's awful that people like The Tremeloes are still on the cabaret circuit but it's impossible to give up real rock 'n' roll, you just can't," he said.

"Jerry Lee Lewis and Chuck Berry were touring last year." Tudor-Pole, who was babysitting his year-old son Henry at home, said: "The

Sex Pistols can't lose. If they do it cynically, that's very Sex Pistolian. If they do it for fun, who can knock that?"

Muff Fitzgerald, a spokesman for Virgin Records, who handles the band's records, said: "Their sales have remained constant. When people changed to compact disc players, they wanted to replace their beer-covered, scratched old copies of *Never Mind The Bollocks*."

THE PUNK BANDS: THEN AND NOW

Many punks would rather forget their wayward youth, but a few still carry on:

The Stranglers were known as the hard men of punk, even fighting with their own audience. Formed in 1976, their lineup is remarkably sealed, although Hugh Cornwell, their original lead singer, left in the early Nineties. The band still tours today.

Poly Styrene and her band X-Ray Spex had a top 20 hit in 1978 with *Germ Free Adolescence*, but their best-known song was the punk anthem *Oh Bondage, Up Yours*. She is now a practising member of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness and has changed her name to Maharani Devi.

Jordan was the archetypal punk muse. She changed her name from Pamela Brooke and worked for Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood in Sex, the punk clothes shop in King's Road. She also appeared in Derek Jarman's film *Jubilee*. When her marriage ended she became a shepherd on her sister's farm in Yorkshire. She is now a veterinary nurse in Seaford and breeds Burmese cats.

The Ramones, formed in 1974, were called America's first punk band, and will be playing their "last ever show" at the Britton Academy on February 3, although their record company says they have no plans to split up.

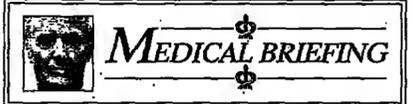
Toyah Wilcox's first acting role was as Mad in the punk film *Jubilee* in 1977. Her most recent was Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This month she began presenting *The Good Sex Guide*. Late, having had a couple of pop hits. She lives in Wiltshire.

Sioxsie Sioux and The Banshees made their debut at a punk festival at the 100 Club, London, in 1976. She released an album last year and has lived near Toulouse in France for several years, with her cats and Budgie, her husband and drummer in the band.

The Cure have changed line-up seven times. A new album due in May features brass, violinists and Mexicans. Their spokesman Doug Wright said: "They do not consider themselves to be punk at all now."

Dead bodies on ward as adds to press.

When a sensitive scalp must not be brushed aside



SIR RICHARD TRANT, a retired general, is an ebullient man of traditional Cornish stock who has been brought up to think that to complain of physical pain is a sign of weakness, but even he had to admit that the agony of temporal arteritis was more than he could bear.

Since Sir Richard retired from the Army he has been working in Bedfordshire. One Friday evening several months ago he and his wife set off to return to their house in Cornwall. When he started the journey he was jovial. As the motorway the general noticed that an oncoming car lights induced a pain behind his right eye which, as he says, soon made the pain from the worst hangover he has ever experienced seem as nothing.

The pain waxed and waned but it was so apparent that its exacerbations were induced by the car lights that he had to hand over the driving to his wife so he could lie back in the passenger seat with his eyes shut. Before he reached Cornwall he was aware of another unusual symptom: not only did he have severe pain behind the right eye but the right side of his head and scalp had become very tender.

When he reached his house the scalp was so sensitive that brushing, and to an even greater extent, combing, his hair had become impossible. Thinking that he had an unusual form of flu he took to his bed. Fortunately, as he was

no better at the end of the weekend, he sent for the family doctor who diagnosed temporal arteritis, also known as giant cell, or cranial, arteritis. Sir Richard was sent into hospital, a biopsy was taken of one of the cranial arteries in an attempt to confirm the diagnosis, but he was treated immediately with massive doses of steroids.

Within two or three weeks he was back at work. The pain had gone and he was feeling as well as ever but he was asked to continue to take smaller doses of steroids. Before the advent of these drugs Sir Richard would have had months of pain, progressive muscle weakness and one chance in five of going blind.

Temporal arteritis is not as uncommon as might be supposed and affects one person in a thousand over the age of 50. It attacks women slightly more often than men. Temporal arteritis is caused by an inflammation of the wall of the arteries, usually those leading to the scalp but occasionally the coronary or other arteries may be affected. The classic symptoms are headaches, scalp and temporal tenderness and very often disturbances in vision. Immediate diagnosis is imperative for, if the eyesight is involved, early administration of steroids can be the only way of saving a patient from blindness.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Chickenfeed adds to poultry prices

PRICES for pork, chicken and eggs are among those likely to rise soon because of increases in the international prices for animal feeds such as soya bean meal, rapeseed and fishmeal. Feed prices, up to £100 a tonne higher since August, are expected to continue to increase.

Jim Reed, director-general of the UK Agricultural Trade Supply Association, says the increased cost of feedstuffs will work through to affect beef, lamb and dairy products.

Advertised supermarket promotions include:

Asda: extra large 2.04kg chickens, £3.49 each, fresh pork spare rib £2.39 a kg, fresh lamb shoulder £3.05 a kg.

Budgens: Ross Tendergrill frozen grillsteaks £1.59 for six, coleslaw in reduced calorie dressing 33p for 250g, closed cup mushrooms 99p a lb.

Co-op: stewing steak £3.69 a kg, pre-packed onions 39p for 625g, pre-packed carrots 39p for 625g.

Harrods: half wheel of stilton, £14.95, camembert cheeses £3.08 each, whole Scottish kippons £7.25 for 7lb box.

Iceland: breaded haddock steaks £2.49 for six, steak and

kidney £1.29 for 454g, Matthews turkey steaks £1.99 for eight.

Marks & Spencer: fresh Caledonian salmon fillets £3.99 for 283g, frozen at sea cod in crumb £2.99 for 600g, reduced fat lite chicken, tomato and basil £2.99 for 350g.

Morrison's: chicken korma, pascanda or biryani £1.79 for 340g, mini onion bhajis 89p for 15, thin pork sausages £1.55 for 24.

Safeway: rump steak £6.99 a kg, half leg of lamb (crucible/ fillet) £5.89 a kg, salmon en croûte £1.99 for 400g.

Sainsbury's: frozen New Zealand whole lamb leg £2.18 a kg, unsmoked rindless back bacon 99p for 175g, frozen chicken (1.8-2kg) £1.85 each, Somerset smoked haddock fillet £3.72 a kg, British pork loin chops £3.30 a kg, Class A fresh chicken drumsticks £1.99 for eight.

Tesco: sirloin steak £9.68 a kg, salmon steaks £2.95 a lb, white seedless grapes £1.49 a lb.

Waitrose: British boneless leg pork £3.59 a kg, premium pork sausages £1.29 for eight, blueberries £1.99 for 200g.

BY ROBIN YOUNG

Winter sale bargain: up to 20% off petrol, permanently.

CARINA E 1.8 GLI - SPECIFICATION									
Power steering	Driver's airbag	Colour keyed bumpers	Central locking	Alarm/immobiliser	Searchlight pretensioners	4 speaker radio cassette	16V twin OHC engine	Side impact beams	Electric side/side glass sunroof
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Compared with other cars in its class, Toyota's lean-burn Carina E is up to 20% more economical. Think about it. For every five gallons you put in, that can be like getting an extra gallon free. From only £11,333* however, you'll find there's no economising on the specification. Just look at the features listed above. This amazing offer on the Carina E is open for a strictly unlimited period. But if you're prepared to hurry, better still. Because it's also one of the fastest cars in its class. For your nearest dealer, and a test drive, call 0800 777 555.

THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA



The lean-burn Carina E 1.8 GLI. £13,959*

Hospital juggles trolleys and chairs

Handwritten Arabic text: ٥٥٠ من الأصيل

Minister will ignore advice of bird groups and spare rampant invader from guns

Gummer to cancel duck cull over fear of public outrage

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to cull vast numbers of Britain's most notorious duck are to be abandoned because ministers fear the sight of dead birds will infuriate animal lovers.

Under the scheme, backed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Spanish ornithologists, hundreds of ruddy ducks would have been shot this spring across the Midlands and Wales.

Ruddy ducks, a North American species that escaped into the countryside in the 1950s, have been flying to Andalusia in Spain and mating with the rare and prized white-headed duck. The hybrids are viewed by the Spanish as alien interlopers and the

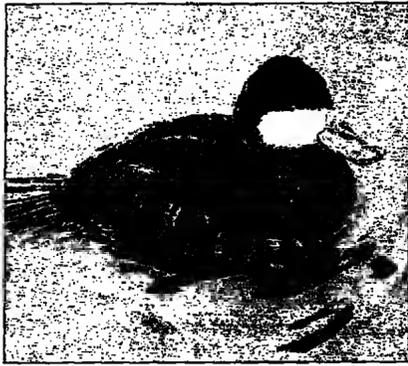


Gummer: fears protests over national duck cull

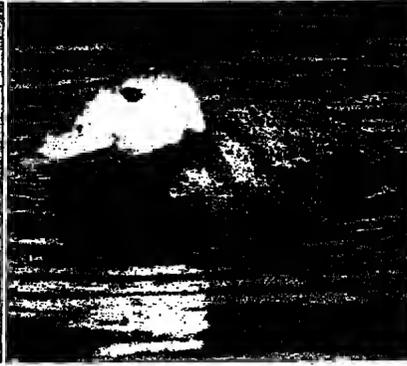
ruddy duck is shot on sight. Wildlife groups and the Spanish Government have demanded safeguards for the white-headed duck, fearing it could become extinct. Campaigners, including

the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, thought they had secured the backing of all members of the ruddy duck working group, set up in the early 1990s by the Department of the Environment after pressure from Madrid. But, with just two weeks to go before details of the big shoot were to be finalised, ministers at the department have been told to scrap it.

English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisory body, has told John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, that the action is not important enough to justify the time and funds, in spite of fears of a wrangle with Madrid. The advice has been seized on by Mr Gummer, who is also concerned about public reaction to a mass slaughter. Barbara Young, chief execu-



The ruddy duck, left, which has begun mating freely with the rare and prized white-headed duck in Spain



tive of the RSPB, said yesterday: "We see culling as a high priority to ensure the survival of the white-headed duck, which is a globally threatened species."

Sources within English Nature say the organisation "wants to wash its hands of the whole business". It takes the view that the ruddy duck wrangle has got out of hand and that Britain has far more pressing conservation problems. There is no direct evi-

dence, opponents claim, that the ducks in Spain are actually from Britain. English Nature has advised that landowners do not want culls on their land. Long term, there are concerns about who will pay for an annual cull.

However, the RSPB said yesterday that the appearance of hybrids in Spain could be directly linked to the growth in British ruddy ducks to about 600 pairs. Small-scale shoots of ruddy ducks have been

carried out to assess the likely effectiveness of a nationwide programme.

Ms Young, who has written to English Nature urging confirmation that the cull will go ahead, said: "We are in no doubt about the importance of the regional control trial. The Spanish have shown remarkable commitment to sorting out the problem in their own country. We have got to respond."

Phil Grice, for English Na-

ture, who will present conclusions at the forthcoming meeting of the ruddy duck working group, said he could not comment.

The RSPB spokesman said he understood Mr Gummer's concern, especially with a general election looming. But he added that the charity had members who would normally be alarmed at birds being culled and that the RSPB had spent a lot of effort explaining its position.

GP calls on wife back from dead

The doctor who mistakenly pronounced a woman dead has been to visit her in hospital. Dr David Roberts called on Daphne Banks, 61, as she recovered in Huntingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Yesterday he was back at work at his surgery in nearby Great Stangton.

Dr Roberts has publicly apologised for the mistake he made when called to Mrs Banks's home at Stonely, Cambridgeshire. She had taken an overdose. An undertaker noticed movement in a vein, and she is now making good progress.

Green team

Frogwatch, a scheme to study why the frog population is declining, was launched by David Bellamy. Children will monitor the progress of spawn, tadpoles and young frogs for the National Amphibian Survey in Cardiff.

Accidents rise

The number of children involved in road accidents rose 4 per cent last summer to 13,090. The Transport Department said the rise could have been caused by the hot weather encouraging children to go out to play.

Bank sues actor

The actor Ricky Tomlinson, 56, Detective Chief Inspector Wise in the Granada Television series Cracker, is being sued by Midland Bank over an alleged £40,000 debt, stemming from an outstanding £24,125 overdraft.

Elm for artworks

The art collection of the late Sir John Pope-Hennessy, former director of the British Museum and of the Victoria & Albert Museum, was sold for £1.03 million at Christie's, New York. The artworks came from his Florence home.

Austen success

The BBC's film of Jane Austen's Persuasion, starring Amanda Root and Clare Higgins, took more than £2.5 million at the box office in the United States last year. The film opens in Britain later this month.

Bypass work halted on day three as guards are washed out

By ADRIAN LEE

THE security operation to protect contractors on the Newbury bypass was condemned as a shambles yesterday after a third day's work was lost to protesters.

Keith Lock, Liberal Democrat leader of Newbury District Council, demanded extra guards and a more active police role after it emerged

that up to 200 security guards had been sent home because rain soaked their tented village.

About 100 activists forced workers to retreat yesterday morning after an hour's work felling a handful of trees near Snelsmore Common, at the northern end of the proposed dual carriageway, even though they were outnumbered by 150 guards who formed a ring

round a digger. The defences were not breached but the circle was considered too small to allow the digger to work safely and, at 9.30am, work was abandoned for the day amid loud cheers.

Reliance Security admitted that it had sent many of its guards home because of problems with their tented accommodation, at a disused farm 14 miles from Newbury.

The Highways Agency said ten acres had been cleared so far and it was working on a strategy with contractors to outwit campaigners. A spokesman said: "We would like to be forging ahead but the clearance work, including some done before Christmas, amounts to 5 per cent of the total." The agency said if work was delayed it would consult English Nature on how it could

proceed during the nesting season.

Mr Lock said: "The last two days they have tried to make a start but have not achieved very much. They have got to change tactics and get more security staff and more police involved. They have got to solve this, otherwise it could go on for weeks."

He feared there was now a danger that preparation work on the £100 million scheme would not finish

in the 14 weeks before the nesting season will stop contractors on many parts of the 9½-mile route.

"The whole operation is a shambles," he said. "The police may have to take a stronger line. I think more resources are needed to create a bigger screen around the workers." The policing is shared by the Thames Valley and Hampshire forces.

Community wildlife projects scrapped

HUNDREDS of wildlife projects aimed at transforming housing estates and school playgrounds by introducing frog ponds and wildlife gardens and creating small forests were scrapped yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes).

English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, announced it was ending its Community Action for Wildlife and Schools Grant Scheme, to help to meet cuts of more than £1.2 million ordered by the Environment Department.

Peter Shirley, community affairs director for the Wildlife

Trusts, said the decision was a bitter blow. "The grants have transformed inner-city areas and acted as 'pump priming' to secure funds from business and industry."

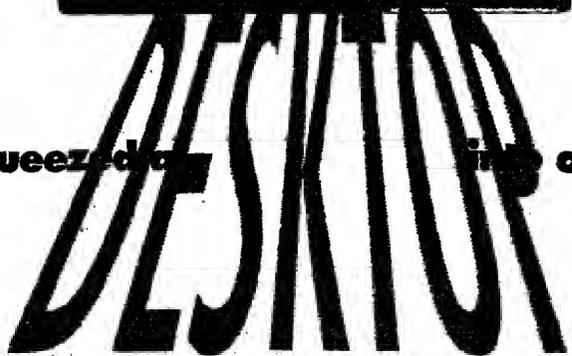
But Eddie Idle, director at English Nature, said that both projects had been nearing the end of their lives and other organisations and companies were running similar projects.

The Environment Department said that it was asked to make cuts of up to 8 per cent but English Nature's grant had been cut by only 5 per cent.



Pentium® Processor Powered Latitude® Notebooks from £1,999 (£2,378.20 incl. VAT & delivery)

We've squeezed desktop computing into our Notebook



Advertisement for Dell Latitude notebooks, featuring the Pentium logo and text: "How do you squeeze all the benefits of desktop computing into a handy mobile? The answer lies in our extraordinary range of Pentium® Processor powered Latitude® notebooks. With speeds up to 120MHz and removable hard drives up to 1.2Gb they come packed with the very latest technology. Our screens are bigger and brighter than ever and we offer industry leading battery technology and advanced power management giving you even greater flexibility. So it's all the plus points of a desktop minus the desk. With Latitude prices starting at just £1,999 (£2,378.20 incl. VAT and delivery) isn't it time you squeezed one in? Call us for details on 01344 724777. Between 9am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Saturdays."

Advertisement for the crime novel 'The Mermaids Singing' by Val McDermid. It features the Gold Dagger Award logo and quotes from Minette Walters, Frances Hegarty, and Times Literary Supplement. The publisher is HarperCollins Publishers.

Advertisement for 'The Thatcher' magazine, featuring the slogan 'No Nukes' and 'Second... stripping Orange... its appeal'. It also includes a 'Cellphones Direct' advertisement.

'Lurch to the right' claims dismissed as baloney put around by party malcontents

Thatcher pours scorn on federalist creed of 'No Nation' Tories

This is an edited extract of the Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture delivered by Baroness Thatcher yesterday.

Keith Joseph, in whose honour this Lecture is delivered, had the charm of a hundred paradoxes. He was a modest man, but he had really nothing to be modest about. He was — that overworked, but in this case appropriate word — "brilliant", yet he never indulged in intellectual virtuosity. He was brave, yet by nature he was timid. He could seem cerebral and remote; but he had a warm heart and impish humour that made his friendship an inexpressible delight.

Keith Joseph's name will always be closely associated with the rethinking of Conservative principles and policies in preparation for the Conservative Government of the 1980s. What marks out our Conservative vision is the insight that the State — government — only underpins the conditions for a prosperous and fulfilling life. It does not generate them. Moreover, the very existence of this State, with its huge capacity for evil, is a potential threat to all the moral, cultural, social and economic benefits of freedom.

Keith and I were struggling to shift Britain back from the socialist State. We were also acting as conservatives, with a small 'c'. We were seeking to re-establish an understanding of the fundamental truths which had made Western life, British life, and the life of the English-speaking peoples what they were. This was the foundation of our Conservative revolution. It remains the foundation for any successful Conservative programme of government.

The cause of limited government — in which the State is servant not master, custodian not collaborator, umpire not player — is the one beneath whose standard Keith Joseph and I gathered all these years ago. It is time to take it out of mothballs, brush off the odd collectivist cobweb that's hung on to it, and go forth to meet the foe.

Avoiding debate about the large issues of government and politics leads to directionless failure. Being prepared to state uncomfortable truths is the precondition for success. Splits and disagreements over important issues never did a party so much harm as the

absence of honest, principled debate.

There is, however, one apparent lesson that we would be most unwise to draw. That is the suggestion, which one hears from time to time, that the only hope for the Conservative Party is a period in Opposition. The situation today in the Party is entirely different from that in 1974.

It is no secret that between John Major and me there have been differences... on occasion. But these have always been differences about how to achieve objectives, rather than what those objectives should be.

What is required now is to ensure that those objectives are clearly explained, so that a re-elected Conservative Government can go further towards fulfilling them. The attractions of Opposition are greatly exaggerated by those who have not experienced it.

But, judging from the opinion polls, Opposition is where the electorate is at present inclined to send us. For a variety of reasons, which I shall describe shortly, I believe that this would be ill-judged on their part. The Conservative Party still has much to

offer. And from Mr Blair's New — or not so new — Labour Party there is much to fear. But we must not ignore the present discontent. Some of it is more or less inevitable. A constant struggle is required to ensure that long-serving governments don't run out of steam. I always regarded it as necessary to combine my role as Prime Minister with that of Chief Stoker, so as to keep up the pressure.

It is also true that the political world is more complicated than in the Eighties. The sharp divide between the forces of freedom represented by the Conservative Party and the West on the one hand, and the forces of collectivism represented by the Labour Party and the Soviet bloc on the other, is a thing of the past. The extent of the success we achieved in the 1980s has, in this sense, caught up with us.

The fashionable expression is that Communism and indeed Socialism "imploded". If that means that their system was always unviable, so be it — though many of the people who now say this scarcely seemed to believe it true before the "implosion" occurred. But, anyway, let's not forget that the system collapsed because it was squeezed by the pressure that we on the Right of politics applied. The Left should not be allowed to get away with pretending otherwise.

The Conservative Party today has problems not because our analysis has been wrong or our principles faulty. Our difficulties are due to the fact that, in certain limited but important respects, our policies and performance have not lived up to our analysis and principles.

That is why the current idea, put around by some malcontents, that the Conservative Party is in trouble because it has moved to the Right, and that this is what needs to be remedied, is baloney — and Denis might be able to suggest a still more telling description. The test is simple. Just ask yourself: is it because, the Government has not spent, borrowed and taxed enough that people are discontented? Or is it that we have gone too far towards increasing government spending, borrowing and taxation? The answer is obvious. We are unpopular, above all, because the middle classes — and all those who aspire to join the middle classes — feel that they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government.

I am not sure what is meant by those who say that the Party should return to something called "One Nation Conservatism". As far as I can tell by their views on European federalism, such people's creed would be better described as "No Nation Conservatism". And certainly any one who believes that salvation is to be found further away from the basic Conservative principles which prevailed in the 1980s — small government, a property-owning democracy, tax cuts, deregulation and national sovereignty — is profoundly mistaken.

That mistake in most cases has its origins in the acceptance of the picture of the 1980s which has been painted by the critics. That decade changed the direction of Britain to such an extent that it is unlikely that even a Labour Government

would altogether reverse it — try as they might.

Inflation was brought down, without the use of the prices and incomes controls which the great and the good all agreed were indispensable. Public spending as a share of GDP fell, which allowed tax rates to be cut — and government borrowing was reduced. We repaid debt. Three hundred and sixty-four economists who claimed that it was madness to think you could get economic growth by cutting government borrowing were proved wrong: I'm told they were never the same again.

Reform of the public finances was matched by reform of the trade unions, deregulation and privatisation of industries and a great extension of ownership of houses, shares and savings — quite a lot of "stakeholding" in fact.

Moreover, though we made mistakes of financial management by allowing the economy to overheat and inflation to rise towards the end of that period, the general advance of prosperity was solidly based upon real economic improvements. Above all, there was a rapid and sustained rise in industrial productivity, which has continued.

The message from all this is not that everything in the 1980s was perfect or that everything that has followed it in the 1990s has been bad. Every Prime Minister has his — and her — regrets. The important message, rather, is that in Britain we have seen from the 1980s what works — just as we saw in the 1970s what did not. And what works here, as elsewhere, is free enterprise and not big government.

So it would make no economic sense at all for us to move closer to the policies of our opponents. Rather, the economic challenge is to cut back the burden of state spending, borrowing and taxation still further.

And trying to move towards the centre ground makes no political sense either. As Keith used to remind us, it is not the centre ground but the common ground — the shared instincts and traditions of the British people — on which we should pitch our tents. That ground is solid — whereas the centre ground is as slippery as the spin doctors who have colonised it.

The limitation of government is still the great issue of British politics. There is a constant tendency, in which pressure groups, vested interests and the media play a part, for government to expand. One of Thatcher's laws — for which I owe something to Lord Acton — is that all government tends to expand, and socialist government expands absolutely. If you start with their view of the State — that it exists to right social wrongs rather than to create a framework for freedom — you can never find the definitive justification for saying "no". Above all, you cannot say "no" to demands for more spending on welfare.

It was with the best intent that postwar governments spent more on welfare, believing that as the standard of living rose, people would do more to look after themselves. What we had to do, as Keith often said in earlier years, was to break the "cycle of deprivation". But the more we spent, the greater the dependency, illegitimacy and crime became. And of course the tax burden rose.

Western countries have now woken up to the problem. But they are still paralysed by it. Here, though, Peter Lilley has been advancing steadily with social security reform, making important changes to reduce future burdens. Yet, as Peter himself often reminds us, social security still accounts for over 40 per cent of central government spending and costs every working person £15 every working day.

Alleviating the burden of the social security budget is a thankless but vital task, for which real Tory stamina is required. It will not be done by financial sleight of hand.

Limited government doesn't mean weak government, only



less government. This is shown by the courageous and far reaching reforms which Michael Howard has been making in the criminal justice system. The strength of the opposition he faces from the vested interests shows he is right — almost as much as do the encouraging recent crime figures.

But today the main challenge to limited government comes not from within these

being made for common European defence — proposals which Michael Portillo has roundly and rightly attacked. They too are a threat to national independence. But most important, of course, is the proposed single European currency which, as John Redwood has argued, "would be a major step on the way to a single European nation".

But vital as the issue of self-government is, it is limited government that concerns me today. For the European Union not only wishes to take away our powers; it wishes to increase its own. It wants to regulate our industries and labour markets, pontificate over our tastes, in short to determine our lives. The Maastricht treaty shows the outlines of the bureaucratic superstate which is envisaged. And Maastricht is the beginning, not the end of that process.

Self-government, limited government, our laws, our Parliament, our freedom. These things were not easily won. And if we Conservatives explain that they are now in peril, they will not be lightly surrendered.

Leading article, page 17

Major left in no doubt about his 'wrong direction'

Margaret Thatcher last night opened the post-mortem on the Conservative election defeat of 1995-97. Appropriately, her lecture was in memory of Keith Joseph, her intellectual mentor, the man who "discovered" his true conservatism after the party was defeated in February 1974. Lady Thatcher consciously echoed the themes of his Uppminster and Preston speeches of June and September 1974 which were about how a Conservative Government had taken the wrong path towards collectivism.

All the reassuring public bromides of her staff and Central Office about a broad church and her support for the Prime Minister are nonsense. She clearly believes that the Major Government is going in the wrong direction, and is headed towards opposition. Her remarks about the Prime Minister were perfunctory, while she praised the standard bearers of the Right by name — Peter Lilley, Michael Howard, Michael Portillo and John Redwood.

Her analysis was that the party is in trouble not because it has moved to the right, but because it has not been Thatcherite enough. "We are unpopular, above all, because the middle classes — and all those who aspire to join the middle classes — feel that they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expect from a Conservative Government". Consequently, "it would make no economic sense at all for us to move closer to the policies of our opponents. Rather, the economic challenge is to cut back the burden of state spending, borrowing and taxation still further. And trying to move towards the centre ground makes no political sense either".

She wants a revolutionary programme for cutting down the size of the state. The commitment by Kenneth Clarke to bring down public spending below 40 per cent of national income is welcomed merely as a starting point with a plea for a manifesto commitment to bring it down "over a

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

period of years by much more". A "really radical approach to spending, requiring large scale removal or transferral of government functions, must also remain on the agenda".

Her language, as much as her specific proposals, amount to a declaration of war on the Tory Left, as in the passage: "I am not sure what is meant by those who say the party should return to something called 'One Nation Conservatism'. As far as I can tell by their views on European federalism, such people's creed would be better described as 'No Nation Conservatism'." She explicitly wants a renegotiation of the European Communities Act of 1972 over the powers of the European Court and her other proposals would isolate Britain from the rest of the European Union.

But her own record was not quite as Thatcherite as she, and her fans, now like to remember. She compromised, both on public spending and on Europe. Her administrators found it as hard as the Major Government has to contain public spending, and to reduce its share well below 40 per cent, while she signed the Single European Act, which extended qualified majority voting.

However much she is dismissed by many Tory MPs as a voice from the past, her lecture was being acclaimed last night on the Right for reflecting the views of many disillusioned local activists and former Tory supporters: away with the cautious Fabianism of the Major years and hurrah for the true blue standard. She also offered a myth of betrayal by those in office every bit as politically explosive as that publicised by Tony Benn after Labour lost in 1979. The difference is that the infighting has started before, rather than after, the party has lost office.

PETER RIDDELL

6 I always regarded my role as that of Chief Stoker, so as to keep up the pressure

6 The centre ground is as slippery as the spin doctors who have colonised it

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primecare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover — at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primecare gives you all this. In fact, we believe it to be the best deal currently on the market. Why not switch immediately? You can be covered the moment you contact our Customer Advisers on 0800 77 99 55.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group



Call Prime Health on 0800 77 99 55, or fill in the coupon.

Title _____ First name _____
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Surname _____ Date of birth _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Phone (inc. STD code) Day _____ Evening _____
Date of birth of the eldest person requiring cover: _____
Cover required: Single Married Family Single parent family
If you already have private medical insurance please state renewal date: _____
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, SK 3842 Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6YB. M01 520 NG

Cellphones Direct's **NEW 1 SECOND BILLING** is stripping Orange of its appeal. **LIMITED OFFER £9.99 INC. VAT**

Cellphones Direct has always brought you the best deals on a wide range of mobile phones. Now, to celebrate 1996, we've introduced a new digital tariff, making the best even better. The new Personal World Extra tariff includes 50 minutes of calls per month and is billed by the second. You also get access to the Vodafone digital network, providing the best coverage, both in the UK and internationally.

All this plus the highest quality mobile phones at significantly lower prices than Mercury One2One and Orange, adds up to the best way to connect yourself in 1996. Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone within 4 working days.

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD EXTRA	
Commitment	£39.29 (£20 + VAT)
Monthly Rental	£26.44 (£22.50 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls	35.25p per min (30p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls	11.75p per min (10p + VAT)

AIRTIME INCLUDED 50 MINUTES PER MONTH

NOKIA
GSM MODEL 2110.
◆ 59 tones/number memory ◆ 100 ringtones
◆ 30 hrs standby-time ◆ Complete menu standard battery and fast reed charger
◆ Weight approx 35g.

CALL NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS
FREEPHONE 0500 000 888

of the Crime Writers' Association
D DAGGER AWARDS
The best crime novel of the year

THE MERMAID SINGING

VAL MCDERMID

Controversial and shocking
Minceo Widdows

Answer to The Silence of the Lambs
Part of a plot... It is truly
a masterpiece. Inspiring, fast and
furious and powerful, with 2
and a half hours of the very best
Famous Literary Supplement

سكزادعت الاصل

Ceremonies reflect man who gloried in grandeur but was proud of rural roots

Family and France say separate farewells to Mitterrand

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND was laid to rest at his birthplace in the small French town of Jarnac after a simple family funeral yesterday while a grand Requiem Mass attended by scores of dignitaries from across the globe took place in Notre-Dame in Paris.

The simultaneous ceremonies — one small and intimate, the other vast and public — reflected contrasting aspects of the former French President, who gloried in the pomp and grandeur of his office, while clinging proudly to his rural roots in southwest France.

Mitterrand died on Monday at the age of 79 after a long battle with prostate cancer, just eight months after leaving office.

The former President insisted he did not want a state funeral and only his family and closest friends were invited to attend the funeral service in Jarnac's St Pierre Church, where Mitterrand was baptised and where his parents married.

For the first time his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine, 21, whose existence was not publicly acknowledged until 1994, appeared alongside the former President's two sons during the ceremonies, in accordance with her father's dying wishes. His long-time mistress, Anne Pingot, Mazarine's mother, walked just a few paces behind his dignified widow, Danielle, as she led the funeral cortege through the narrow streets of Jarnac towards the church.

More than 1,300 mourners, including 61 heads of state, packed into Notre-Dame for a moving Requiem Mass in honour of the Socialist leader. It was broadcast live on French television.

Among those gathered to pay tribute were the Prince of Wales, John Major, President Chirac of France, Al Gore, the American Vice-President, President Yeltsin of Russia, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, King Juan Carlos of Spain, Sweden's King Carl XVI and President Mubarak of Egypt.

Tears ran down the face of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, Mitterrand's closest European ally and partner in building closer European union, as Maurice Duruflé's Requiem echoed around the great 11th-century cathedral.

Prince Charles, President Castro of Cuba and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, were also visibly moved by the ceremony, at which the American soprano Barbara Hendricks sang the *Pie Jesu* from Faure's Requiem.

In his eulogy, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger recalled how Mitterrand, a self-proclaimed agnostic, had pondered over the nature of death during his last years. Quoting Mitterrand, Cardinal Lustiger noted in his sermon: "Death is what gives destiny its richness and meaning."

On the stroke of 11am, as both ceremonies were beginning, Métro trains in Paris were halted and schoolchildren across the country observed a minute's silence in homage to the former President. Flags flew at half-mast to mark a day of national mourning, but schools and offices remained open.

At dawn, the former President's body was taken from the Paris apartment where he died and flown to Cognac air base. His children and his black Labrador, Baluk, accompanied the French leader on this final journey, as he had requested.

The coffin was then transported by hearse, flanked by dozens of motorcycle outriders, through the fields of Mitterrand's youth to nearby Jarnac. In the town square, beneath funeral skies and a light rain, the former head of the French armed forces was accorded full military honours for the last time. As a military band played, the tricolour draped over his oak coffin was caught by the wind and fluttered to the ground, to be retrieved and replaced by his widow and his elder son, before the procession moved off slowly across the town.

Film cameras and other media were not permitted inside the church, but loudspeakers relayed the Mass to the thousands lining the street outside. The 200 people attending the Jarnac service included Mitterrand's six surviving siblings, his closest political allies and a handful of other personal friends, including the actor Gérard Depardieu and the writer Françoise Sagan.

After the service the cortège paused briefly in front of the stone house, its door marked by a single bouquet of red roses, where Mitterrand was born on October 26, 1916. Mourners then proceeded to Jarnac cemetery where France's longest-serving President was buried in the Mitterrand family tomb.

Friends and colleagues departed, leaving immediate family members to pay their last respects. Jarnac has a population of 2,000, but some ten times that number converged on the town yesterday. Later in the afternoon, the cemetery was opened to the waiting public.

Mitterrand, as meticulous in death as in life, left behind detailed plans for all funeral arrangements: no speeches, no journalists at the cemetery and only two bouquets, one of roses and another of irises, to be placed on his coffin. His instructions were followed to the letter. The world leaders, crowned heads, government ministers, colleagues and friends of the late President appeared grave and subdued as they filed out of Notre-Dame to the strains of Bach's *St John's Passion*, with the exception of Mr Yeltsin who, with characteristic ebullience, raised his arms in a double clenched-fist salute to the waiting, and somewhat surprised, crowd.



Among the mourners were: Danielle, left, M Mitterrand's widow, Jean-Christophe, their son, Mazarine, his illegitimate daughter, Anne Pingot, her mother, and Gilbert, another son

After the service the cortège paused briefly in front of the stone house, its door marked by a single bouquet of red roses, where Mitterrand was born on October 26, 1916. Mourners then proceeded to Jarnac cemetery where France's longest-serving President was buried in the Mitterrand family tomb.

Friends and colleagues departed, leaving immediate family members to pay their last respects. Jarnac has a population of 2,000, but some ten times that number converged on the town yesterday. Later in the afternoon, the cemetery was opened to the waiting public.

Mitterrand, as meticulous in death as in life, left behind detailed plans for all funeral arrangements: no speeches, no journalists at the cemetery and only two bouquets, one of roses and another of irises, to be placed on his coffin. His instructions were followed to the letter. The world leaders, crowned heads, government ministers, colleagues and friends of the late President appeared grave and subdued as they filed out of Notre-Dame to the strains of Bach's *St John's Passion*, with the exception of Mr Yeltsin who, with characteristic ebullience, raised his arms in a double clenched-fist salute to the waiting, and somewhat surprised, crowd.

"I'm in perfect health," the Russian President told reporters on his first foreign trip since suffering a heart attack in October.

After the service, Mr Major said: "President Mitterrand was a very big figure in European history. It will be recognised in due course, but I think his contemporaries understand that."

On the eve of yesterday's funeral, some 30,000 of Mitterrand's supporters massed at Place de la Bastille square in Paris to mourn the Socialist leader. Many brought single red roses and others carried lighted candles as they stood in silence where Parisians celebrated his election more than 14 years ago.



Kohl: shed tears for an ally and friend

Romantic who shared city dwellers' love for the countryside of youth

By BEN MACINTYRE

THE decision by François Mitterrand to eschew a state funeral in favour of burial in his hometown of Jarnac was less an act of modesty — a quality with which the former President was not overburdened — than a reflection of the rural romanticism lying just beneath the surface of almost every urban Frenchman and woman.

Mitterrand was no exception. His veneration for the bucolic land of his childhood deep in southwestern France was genuine, but it was also politically useful. Every summer he would be photographed and filmed, sitting beneath the trees at his country home in Les Landes, surrounded by his family, his dog at his feet. He would be seated, more often than not, at a table groaning with country produce.

Some of the more enjoyable footage shows the President on retreat, striding up the nearby Solutre hill with his political aides and acolytes trotting sweetly in his wake.

"A part of every man remains in the country of his youth," he once observed.

If the grandeur of Notre-Dame reflected Mitterrand, the world statesman, then the simple church at Jarnac represented Mitterrand, the "paysan" — a representative of "La France Profonde", the real France.

For all the haughty airs that earned him the nickname "Dieu", Mitterrand also had the common touch, a talent amply testified to by those who converged on the Place de la Bastille on Wednesday night for the mass public rally in memory of the former President.

"He was remarkable man, but he was also one of us," said Marc Desalles, as he stood listening to the melancholy strains of Beethoven wafting across the Paris square as thousands stood in silent homage.

Hankering for a country past — however distant — goes a long way to explain not only Mitterrand's appeal but also, by contrast, the unpopularity of the Government that succeeded him, President Chirac. Alain



Thousands of Parisians gathered outside Notre-Dame to pay their respects

Juppé, his Prime Minister and the rest of the Cabinet are widely (and in some cases unfairly) seen as metropolitan northerners, technocrats educated at elite schools who are out of touch with the earthy roots of France.

Government efforts to overhaul the rail network, threatening the closure of the hundreds of tiny branch lines that nourish the country's

deepest corners, is cited as further proof that the new regime has little sympathy for the France that lies beyond the suburbs. Here, too, the late Mitterrand could strike a chord. He was, as he liked to remind his countrymen, the son of the stationmaster for the town of Angoulême, only a few miles from Jarnac.

There, in a tribute echoing one of Mitterrand's first acts as President in 1981, mourners gathered by his tomb, in pouring rain, red rose in hand, leaving the flowers piled high. After the former President was elected amid revolutionary fervour 15 years ago, he went to stand, clutching a red rose, before the tombs of France's great figures at the Pantheon in Paris.

Now it's just a penny for your thoughts.

In June of last year, we introduced charging by the second and brought down the cost of a Local Call at the weekend to 1p a minute, subject to the minimum charge of 5p. For more information call Freefone 0800 800 890. BT It's good to talk

LOCAL WEEKEND CALLS OVER 220 SECONDS SAVE AN AVERAGE OF 39%. DIFFERENT RATES APPLY TO BT CHARGEGARD CALLS. BT PUBLIC PAYPHONE CALLS ARE UNAFFECTED

ARTS 32-34
We play
Mercury spre
Signet puts hi
chains on the



ARTS 32-34

Sound link between Debussy and the bearded seal



EDUCATION 30

Student loans need to be reassessed



SPORT 35-40

Rusédksi on the march in Australia

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 38,39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1996

Sell-off at Sears may cost 1,700 jobs

By Sarah Bagnall

LIAM STRONG, chief executive at Sears, the retail group, yesterday unveiled a £65 million restructuring that could involve the loss of at least 1,700 jobs.

Sears announced it intends to sell - or close - its Saxe and Curtes high street shoe chains and dispose of Millets and its Dutch shoe business. If a buyer for the British shoe businesses fails to materialise the 1,100 Saxe stores and 124 Curtes outlets will be closed with the loss of the 1,700 full-time equivalent jobs.

Sears, the Selfridges department store to Freemans catalogue group, is in talks with several potential buyers for the loss-making businesses. Stephen Hinchliffe, who acquired Freeman Hardy Willis, True Form and Manfield from Sears in August, is said to be one of the interested parties.

The withdrawal from the two shoe formats will create annual savings of £8 million. Further cost savings of up to £33 million will be made from Sears' decision to out-source its information technology and accounting systems to Andersen Consulting and to restructure its distribution systems.

Referring to the planned disposal of businesses, Mr Strong said: "These mark an end to the clearing out." The news was greeted with dismay by City institutions who believe Sears should become more focused and sell off other parts of its operations. Institutions also expressed concerns.

Sears had flat like-for-like sales in the six weeks to January 6. Underlying sales at British Shoe fell 10.9 per cent, Selfridges lifted like-for-like sales 10.7 per cent and Freemans 6.9 per cent, clothing was flat.

Telegraph, page 24

Woolwich and Alliance plan market flotations

By Patricia Tehan and Robert Miller

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER Building Society will announce plans early next month for a £2.5 billion stock market listing, hard on the heels of yesterday's £3 billion flotation plans from its rival the Woolwich.

A&L, which owns Girobank, refused to comment on its plans to float yesterday, but said: "We have made no secret of the fact that we are considering a number of options, including the possibility of conversion to public company. The board has made no decision yet and the announcement by the Woolwich will in no way influence our timing in this matter." The society is expected to announce plans to pay an average £900 each to its three million qualifying savers and borrowers next month.

This means both A&L and Woolwich will be coming to the stock market during 1997.

The Woolwich's three million qualifying savers and 550,000 qualifying borrowers will receive an average of an estimated £1,000 in a free share distribution next year. By modelling its flotation plans on those of the Halifax, it hopes to avoid a court case, though it has yet to receive approval from the Building Societies Commission.

Those who have held accounts for less than two years will receive a flat payout of shares worth between £500 and £750, while those with accounts of two or more years of standing will receive an additional variable payment depending on the size of the account.

The society was forced to close its doors to new depositors on Wednesday night after rumours that it was about to announce flotation plans prompted 30,000 people to open accounts on Monday and Tuesday in the hope of receiving a bonus. That compares with an average of 1,000 new accounts a day.



Floating voters: Peter Robinson, left, Woolwich chief executive, with Sir Brian Jenkins, the chairman, yesterday

To qualify for the free shares, Woolwich investing members must have held at least £100 in their accounts on the cut-off date of December 31. Those who opened accounts this year will not benefit. Peter Robinson, the chief executive, said: "I have no concern about not enfranchising carpet-baggers."

To assess the variable payments to members, the Woolwich will take amounts in an account on 31 December and

on another date to be fixed before flotation. The payment will be based on the lowest figure.

Mr Robinson said that the society needed to convert because as a plc it would be able to combat the gathering threat of increased competition. The society believed size was important and will become increasingly so.

City observers believe the society might use the flotation to raise additional capital for

the acquisition of a mutual insurance company. Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, said: "The Woolwich has taken a calculated risk by effectively putting itself up for sale before conversion."

Flotation will probably be in the autumn. After that the new bank would be safe from predators for at least five years as there would be a 15 per cent limit on share ownership.

Mr Robinson accepted that the period between announce-

ment and flotation "will stimulate interest in the Woolwich from existing companies who wish to establish partnership or wish to absorb us into their business. We have no wish, indeed no need, to transfer control into the hands of a third party. We are big in the core markets which we intend to stay in."

Pennington, page 23
Mutual attraction, page 25
City Diary, page 25

Bank tries to stop another Barings

By George Sivell

THE Bank of England has sent to the Commons Treasury Select Committee a copy of its progress report on plugging gaps in the financial system that were revealed by the Barings collapse.

The committee, which is examining discrepancies in reports by the British and Singaporean authorities on the £860 million Barings collapse, approved publication of the progress report, released yesterday.

Bank of England officials say that they have reviewed 15 of 17 recommendations made by the Board of Banking Supervision report on Barings published last July. Two more recommendations are being considered by Arthur Andersen, the consultants called in by the Bank last October to review the quality of its supervision of the financial system.

The Bank progress report says that a framework has been established to measure the risks to which a banking group is exposed. Banks will be asked whether any operation in the group involves more than 5 per cent of capital or whether it makes or loses 5 per cent of profits or losses. In an echo of the Barings collapse, exposures of more than 10 per cent of a bank's capital to another part of the group will be examined.

Banks have also been asked to nominate a main board director to take responsibility for filing financial details to the Bank of England. They will be expected to meet the Bank at least once a year.

In future, consolidation of non-banking operations into the main bank for regulatory purposes, as happened with Barings Singapore and the main Barings bank will require approval by the Bank of England Governor or the director of banking supervision.

On the vital question of international co-operation with other regulators, the Bank says there "is no agreed international model on how regulators should relate" and that there "could be legal impediments".

BUSINESS TODAY

INDICES

FT-SE 100 2854.9 (-1.6)
Yield 3.93
FT-SE All share 1791.48 (-3.4)
Nikkei 26377.92 (-24.4)
New York 5058.59 (+25.05)
S&P Composite 600.53 (+2.45)

US RATE

Federal Funds 5.25% (5)
Long Bond 100% (107)
Yield 5.10% (8.18)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank 6 1/4% (6 1/4)
Life long g/s 11 1/4% (11 1/4)

STERLING

New York 1.5448* (1.547)
London 1.5438 (1.545)
DM 2.2221 (2.225)
Yen 161.78 (162.57)
Yen Index 82.0 (83.2)

\$\$\$ \$ DOLLAR

London 1.4403* (1.4355)
DM 4.9410* (4.9180)
Yen 104.75* (104.83)
Yen Index 94.5 (94.6)

Tokyo close Yen 104.86

WORLD STOCKS

Brent 15-day (oil) \$17.60 (\$18.00)

COMMODITIES

London close \$398.75 (\$398.75)

* denotes midday trading price

BP disposals

BP is to sell two of its oil refineries and shut down part of a third, leaving the oil giant with 11 around the world. The disposals highlight the problem of overcapacity in the oil industry. The two refineries up for sale are Lima in the United States and Lavera in France. Page 23

Trafalgar sale

Persimmon, the housebuilder, is in talks with debt-laden Trafalgar House about buying its Ideal Homes subsidiary and expects to announce a deal by the end of this month. Beazer said it was "surprised and disappointed" at this news because it had made an offer that had been ignored. Page 26

Signet puts high street chains on the market

By Sarah Bagnall

SIGNET GROUP, the former Ratners jewellery business, has put its Ernest Jones and H Samuel chains up for sale in a move that could realise up to £300 million and help to secure the group's financial future.

A number of companies are thought to be interested in buying the businesses, which hold the largest share of the British jewellery market and account for 40 per cent of group sales. The interested parties are said to include Gerald Ratner, whose name the company used to bear, Argos, the catalogue retailer with a strong presence in the jewellery market, Goldsmiths, the jewellers, and Next, the fashion retailer.

Mr Ratner is said to be trying to obtain backing to purchase H Samuel, the bigger of the two chains. Goldsmiths has said it is interested in acquiring both businesses or just Ernest Jones, while

Argos management indicated an interest last year. Next is said to be in the process of forming a consortium with a view to making an offer.

James McAdam, Signet's chairman, said: "There have been a lot of people sniffing around. There is considerable interest in the businesses. But we will only sell them if we can get the price we want." Pro-



McAdam, playing it cool

ceeds will be used to pay down the group's £350 million of debt. This would help profitability as interest payments would be reduced to realistic levels. The news was welcomed by rebel shareholders, who hold a mixture of preference and ordinary shares giving them 22.3 per cent voting power. A spokesman said: "We are very pleased. The selling of the UK business is what we suggested last year and it's finally happening."

The sale would leave Signet with Sterling, the second biggest jewellery retailer in the US, which contributes 60 per cent of group sales. The development came as Signet revealed that pre-tax profits for the year to February 3 would exceed forecasts. Analysts lifted predictions from between £15 million and £18 million to £20 million, compared to last year's £8.1 million.

Pennington, page 23

UK manufacturing static in November

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

BRITISH manufacturing activity was stagnant in November, prompting the City to speculate on the outside chance of another base rate cut next week when the Chancellor meets the Governor of the Bank of England.

The Central Statistical Office said that it now estimates that manufacturing is growing at a rate of only 0.5 per cent a year. Taking the average of the last three months, a good guide to the overall trend, manufacturing fell 0.1 per cent compared with the previous three months. This is the first time there has been a fall between two three-month periods since August 1993.

Industrial production, which includes the output of the North Sea and energy production, rose 0.5 per cent as demand for gas and electricity bounced back after October's unusually warm weather.

The lack of growth in manufacturing in November reflects

not only weaker domestic demand but also the impact of very high stock levels, built up throughout last year, and a weakening in exports.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said that the situation for manufacturing could get worse as companies run down their stocks and that it is difficult to see a decent recovery until the second half of this year when growth in America and Europe may be a bit stronger. He said that base rates will fall over the next few months, predicting the first cut next week.

The slowdown in Europe was highlighted yesterday by figures showing that German gross domestic product rose only 1.9 per cent in 1995, down from 2.9 per cent the year before. Economists argued that the 1995 figure could be revised sharply lower. It was particularly worrying that western German GDP increased only 1.5 per cent.

Mercury spree takes Forte stake to 15%

By Eric Reguly

MERCURY Asset Management, the fund manager that played a key role in ensuring the success of Granada's takeover of London Weekend Television, disclosed yesterday that it had bought 12 million additional shares in Forte. Independent analysts said that its buying spree suggests it is betting that Granada's £3.8 billion hostile offer for Forte will win.

MAM bought the 12 million shares at market prices over the past few days. It now owns 144 million Forte shares, or 15.2 per cent of the company and is the single biggest Forte share-

holder. At the closing price of 368 1/2 p, up 8 1/2 p, those shares are valued at about £530 million. It also bought a further 1.1 million Granada shares, raising its stake to 14.5 per cent.

MAM would not say why it had bought so many Forte shares. It is understood that decisions to buy were made by individual fund managers within the group looking for a "cheap way of getting into Granada", assuming, of course, that Granada wins.

Granada has offered four new Granada shares and £23.25 in cash for every 15 Forte shares. It has also offered a special dividend of 47p, which is worth about 59p with the tax

credit. Arbitrageurs have figured out that buying a Forte share at the market price in effect would give them a Granada share for 580p to 600p against Granada's closing share price of 664p, up 11p.

One analyst said: "If MAM thought the bid wasn't going to go through, I doubt they would be buying."

Both Granada and Forte doubt they can win the battle unless they secure the allegiance of Carol Galley, MAM's joint vice-chairman. In 1994, she held the key to Granada's hostile £724 million bid for LWT. MAM backed Granada's bid and it won.

More than 40 million Forte shares,

or about 2 per cent of the share capital, were traded yesterday on top of the 48 million shares traded on Wednesday.

To other developments, hotel experts said plans by Forte or Granada to sell luxury hotels could depress prices across the sector. Alex Kyriakidis, head of the hotel group at Arthur Andersen Consulting, said: "There is a problem of too much supply." He notes that the Langham Hilton in London has been on the market for about £100 million for about six months and that Britannia Inter-Continental is now up for auction.

Pennington, page 23

صكيات من الأهل

Advertisement for Cater Allen Bank. Text: "DON'T GET SHORTCHANGED ON SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS." Includes a table of interest rates paid by banks. Table: BANKS, INTEREST RATES PAID (1 month deposit, 3 month deposit, 6 month deposit). Cater Allen: 5.50%, 5.77%, 6.02%. Average of the four major clearing banks: 5.05%, 5.30%, 5.66%. Text: "It doesn't take long to see the advantages of banking with Cater Allen. The specialist deposit takers. Compared to the standard deposit terms of the four major clearers, it clearly pays to leave your money with us. But there's nothing standard about Cater Allen. We offer rates direct from the Money Markets. For any amount over £10,000, we will quote an individual interest rate for the exact sum you wish to deposit, for the exact time period you specify. The unique way to make every pound, and every day, of your deposit count. Call us now FREE for a quote or for details of our other onshore and offshore banking services. Or keep this number until your existing deposit comes up for renewal." MONEY MARKET HOTLINE FREEPHONE 0800 212 638. CATER ALLEN BANK. Cater Allen Limited, Registered Office: 200th Strand, London EC4V 9ET. Registered number, 04032 England. Authorized under the Banking Act 1987. Regulated by SFA. Member of The London Stock Exchange.

Patten challenges Peking to set up democratic council

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHRIS PATTEN, Hong Kong's Governor, yesterday challenged Peking not to establish a "counterfeit" Legislative Council here and vowed to continue to call for democracy and the rule of law.

Earlier, British officials in Peking had expressed about an improvement in Sino-British relations after three days of talks between Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Chinese ministers. It was difficult to see, however, what had been achieved.

Despite the high hopes raised by Mr Rifkind's first visit to China, and the gloss he put on his meetings with Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, it was clear last night that little progress had been made on the two main points at issue: the retention of the Legislative Council after the transfer of sovereignty in June 1997, and a greater role for Mr Patten.

The point was reinforced yesterday when Mr Qian said that abolition of the Legis-

lative Council in 1997 was not negotiable.

Mr Patten, meanwhile, speaking on Hong Kong's government radio station, questioned whether Peking intended to set up a fairly elected legislative body or "a cardboard cut-out, or a counterfeit".

The remark will outrage Peking, which describes Mr Patten's constitutional changes, including the elected council, as a violation of British-Chinese agreements on the political structure of the colony in the run-up to 1997. Peking says it will establish a "provisional council" on July 1, 1997, and hold elections for a substitute body at a later date.

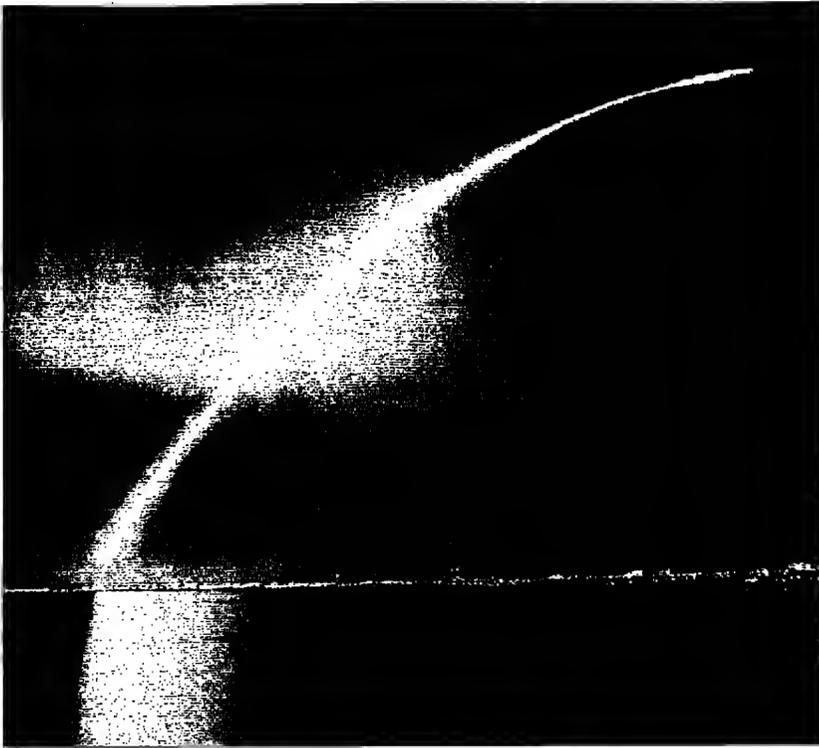
On the question of raising important issues, Mr Patten said: "I will continue to speak up for the rule of law and freedom of speech." He said he intended, courteously, to continue to debate political matters with the Chinese, insisting that acquiescence would mean "breaking promises to the people of Hong Kong".

After what Mr Rifkind described as a "substantive" 70-minute meeting with President Jiang Zemin — 30 minutes longer than scheduled — he told reporters: "I was pleased to hear him give repeated emphasis to the importance China attached to the autonomy of Hong Kong and its determination to respect that autonomy."

Asked about the Legislative Council, Mr Rifkind said: "That position has not changed... I believe it would be of considerable damage to confidence in Hong Kong if the council was dismantled and we hope the Chinese Government will reflect on that matter."

□ Bush plea: The former US President George Bush has called for a new dialogue with China. Talking in Hong Kong after meeting Chinese leaders in Peking, he warned against American isolationism as China develops into a world power. (AFP)

Letters, page 17



The shuttle Endeavour streaks skyward yesterday from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, leaving the city of Cocoa Beach on the right. A crew of six will undertake a nine-day satellite retrieval and scientific mission

Dissident warns of threat to Dominica

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Saudi dissident, Dr Muhammad al-Masari, facing deportation from Britain, gave a warning yesterday that his arrival in Dominica would endanger safety on the Caribbean island.

Speaking shortly after handing in his appeal papers contesting the order by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Dr Masari said he fully agreed with Rosi Douglas, the opposition leader in Dominica, that his presence on the island would be a threat to its safety. He said Dominica had only 300 police, who could not stop a mercenary force of 50 to 60 people who might be sent to eliminate him.

"The country is simply too small," Dr Masari said. He had discussed the issue with Mr Douglas during his visit to Britain on Tuesday and noted that the opposition would move a vote of no-confidence in the island's Government.

Dr Masari, an Islamic activist, also denied a report in today's *Jewish Chronicle* that he had links with an Islamic group in Britain which had threatened Jewish students.

Socialists take on Tokyo's poisoned finance chalice

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

JAPAN announced a conservative-dominated Cabinet yesterday under Ryutaro Hashimoto, the new Prime Minister, with key posts for the Liberal Democratic Party and finance going to the Socialists.

The post of Finance Minister has always been regarded as one of the most powerful positions. However, recent financial scandals and problems, including a government plan to use nearly 700 billion yen (£4 billion) in taxpayers' money to liquidate financially troubled housing loan firms, has taken the lustre off the portfolio.

Mr Hashimoto is known to have offered the post to numerous senior LDP politicians, but they all turned it down. The Liberal Democrats have taken on the key posts of home affairs and defence.

The strategic block of parliamentary votes held by the Socialists ensured the party a strong representation in the previous coalition administration. The portfolios of finance and defence were regarded as too sensitive to be given to the party.

Wataru Kubo, the secretary-general of the Socialist Party, agreed to take the finance post, reportedly on the basis that he will also serve as Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Hashimoto appointed Yukihiko Ikeda, a former Defence Minister and LDP colleague, as Foreign Minister. Mr Ikeda will have to face the difficult task of handling Japan's relations with the United States, amid growing opposition from the southern island of Okinawa to the presence of US military bases.

Hashimoto victory seals tilt to Right

BY PAUL CARTER

THE election of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Liberal Democratic Party leader, as the Prime Minister of Japan consolidates the success of right-wing forces.

With the main opposition New Frontier Party led by Ichiro Ozawa, a former LDP strongman, the political situation is akin to having Michael Portillo and John Redwood in charge of the two main parties in Britain.

This renewed entrenchment of the Right is extraordinary for, after the general election of July 1993, the 38-year period of continuous LDP rule ended and power was assumed by an eight-party coalition intent on changing the direction of politics and breaking what had become one-party dominated rule. What went wrong?

Part of the answer lies with the split in the LDP which precipitated the 1993 election, prompted by the younger members' impatience with the septuagenarians who ran the party. It was Mr Ozawa who passionately argued the need for change and initiated what became known as the *futsu no kuni* or "normal country" debate. To Mr Ozawa, "normal country" equates with one which can defend itself independently.

The strong-arm tactics and backroom defection deals of Mr Ozawa eventually led to the formation of the 170-member New Frontier Party which last year proved its ability as a credible fighting force when it won 54 of the 84 seats on offer in the Upper House elections. Since 1993 the Socialists have been bounced between coalitions like a political football, eventually forming an unusual alliance with the LDP under the temporary caretaker prime ministership of Tomiichi Murayama. During this time, to make their marriage to the LDP work and in the hope of engaging the electorate's trust, the Socialists recanted all of their key policies. After the resignation



Hashimoto: wants seat on the Security Council

of Mr Murayama and the sidelining of the Socialists, the Right has again reasserted itself in government under Mr Hashimoto.

Moreover, now the leadership of the two main parties has skipped a generation. Japanese politics is faced with the relatively youthful Mr Hashimoto, aged 58, and Mr Ozawa, 53. The desire for change which led to the initial split of the LDP is still apparent, with both leaders being vocal in their support for Japan's claim of permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, and both arguing for constitutional change.

With the Socialists sidelined a political scenario has arisen where two conservative parties vie for power. Mr Ozawa and the Right have clearly won the "normal country" debate. Whether this result was serendipitous or sheer Machiavellianism on the part of Mr Ozawa, the emergence of two main conservative parties and the expectation of high Socialist Party losses in the next election does raise fears about the legitimacy of a democracy whose opposition and governing party is represented by a conservative block with few if any balancing factors.

Paul Carter researches Japanese politics at the Centre for International Studies, University of Cambridge.

Escort Cabaret.

A nice,

sensible

family car.

(Allegedly.)

At first glance the Cabaret would seem to be the ideal choice for all those family outings. What with central double locking, electric front windows and an anti-theft alarm it's certainly not lacking in refinement. But look a little closer. The wheels are five spoke alloys! Then there's the rear spoiler and sport style bumpers. Notice how they're colour coded to match the metallic body paint!††(Just one of six colours available.) Be under no illusions. The Cabaret is more than just an average family saloon. Under the bonnet is a Zetec 1.6i, 16 valve engine. Although we've a choice of 1.4i or 1.8 Turbo diesel if you prefer. But with an on the road price* of £12,200 (a mere £11,600 for the 1.4i), this sporty edition could be the most sensible family car you're ever likely to buy.



*Not available on 1.4i or 1.8 Turbo Diesel. ††Standard only on 1.6i. *On the road price includes Recommended Retail Price, delivery charges, 12 months road fund licence and estimated costs of number plates and fuel. Vehicle shown: Escort Cabaret 1.6i. Also available Escort Cabaret 1.8 Turbo Diesel - £12,600 on the road.

سكارت من الفورد

Woolwich sets out its stock market stall □ Signet signals a British sell-off □ Weighting bid prices with public money

Mutual admiration society

□ PETER ROBINSON has a nerve, complaining about the "carpet-baggers" who have pitched up at Woolwich as investors merely in the hope of sharing in the largesse from demutualisation.

The progress of the Woolwich towards a stock market flotation was hardly the best kept secret in the City. Instead the market has been massaged for months by yesterday's announcement by enticing tidbits of information.

No surprise, therefore, that arbitrageurs have decided to take positions at the Woolwich, as at any other building society where management have not explicitly set their faces against going public. That rather arbitrary December 31 deadline is not going to weed out all of these.

But the Woolwich has handled it all rather better than the Alliance & Leicester, its main rival in the race towards the stock market, which late last year found its systems overwhelmed by the volume of punters wanting to place a bet. Yesterday's news will also have greatly discomfited the A & L, despite that building society's studied air of nonchalance, because the two were always

perceived to be in a race that the Woolwich has now won.

Investors in other building societies presented with similar unexpected gift horses over the course of this year will not be too inclined to count their teeth. But the race to demutualisation will have its non-runners, and their motives should be respected.

There is nothing wrong with opting to remain a small building society with an established regional client base trading out of a limited number of premises. Such societies will never lack investors or borrowers, and mutual status provides some protection from an expansion-crazed financial services sector.

The British banking sector has for years served as the perfect testing ground for Hutter's First Law, that improvement equals deterioration. So those societies that decide to go public should also have their motives strongly scrutinised. The Woolwich strategy yesterday was dressed up

with a suspicious amount of corporate verbiage, but quotation will lead to enough useful avenues to explore that would be closed to a mutual society.

Those building societies stranded in the middle, with no clear reason to stay mutual and no real expansion strategy, will simply be swallowed up. Shed a tear here for the Nationwide, reputation and loan book in tatters, which will either be taken out if a rich enough owner can be found or limp along for years as the favourite to finish last.

Wheel of fortune

□ FORGET crystal decanters, forget gold earrings with the life expectancy of a Marks & Spencer prawn sandwich. The day Gerald Ratner's runaway mouth sealed his fate was in 1987, when he said "yes" to the \$200 million purchase of Sterling



Mr Ratner's karmic wheel might just be about to turn again, because he must be among the candidates to buy back the British arm of his former creation.

Such a reversal might appeal to sentimentalists, but it is not the most obvious outcome of the decidedly rum decision by Signet to put its two British chains, H Samuel and Ernest Jones, up for sale. Mr Ratner is not the front-runner; a more likely purchaser is Jurek Piasecki at Goldsmiths Group, the man who has most successfully traded on Mr

Ratner's eclipse. Signet spent most of 1995 insisting the two chains were not about to be sold to Mr Piasecki, despite increasingly loud hints to the contrary from that quarter. The board's change of tack, the party line now goes, has nothing to do with the still unresolved row with Signet's rebel shareholders, a stropky band of mercenaries well hardened by earlier corporate battles who have 20 per cent of the votes.

If so, there is only one other credible reason for it. Christmas for Signet this year was a good one, in the US if not in Britain. But first-half trading last year was poor, and jewellery is such a volatile business that future trade could go both ways.

A sale would leave a reasonably well-financed US retailer with a London quote, a situation that would have to be amended in due course. It would also take much of the ammunition away from the rebels, by cutting debts

of £350 million by the £250 million or so that the British chains are worth and so lessening any future pressure for financial restructuring.

A special fate for special dividends

□ GRANADA is not to be blamed for deploying the weapon of a special dividend, because such payments already have an established if dishonourable history.

Last year, regional electricity companies were found to have so much cash that such dividends helped to fund their own demise by providing a built-in boost to predators' offers. As the fad caught on, it was taken up in Lloyds Bank's merger with TSB. But there are two clear objections to them as part of bid terms.

They contravene the spirit, if not the letter, of the City Take-over Code. This demands that all

shareholders be offered equal terms. But such payments deliberately offer pension funds terms of higher value than those offered to most private investors. Gross funds can reclaim 20p in tax for every 80p they receive in net dividends, for instance making the Granada bid worth 3 per cent more. When will the Take-over Panel act?

They also require taxpayers to help to pay for takeover bids that are increasingly mistrusted by the general public. Most City financiers had assumed the special dividend loophole would be closed in November's Budget. But there is still time to amend the Finance Bill.

Trafalgar Homeless

□ THE sale of Ideal Homes by Trafalgar House — henceforth to be known as Trafalgar Homeless, presumably — represents a concentration of focus that should find a place in the management consultancy textbooks. After the sale of a profitable housebuilder, Trafalgar can no longer be dubbed a mixed conglomerate. Instead, it will be almost entirely devoted to the business of making losses.

BP to make big cuts in refining operations

By CARL MORTISHED

BP is to make huge cutbacks in its refining operations with the sale of two plants in the United States and France and the partial closure of a third in the Netherlands. The \$1.1 billion cost of the closure and sales will be taken as an exceptional charge to after-tax profits for the fourth quarter of 1995.

The cuts are designed to bring BP's loss-making refining operations back into profit. The move follows the sale in November of the Marcus Hook refinery in the US, and the combined effect of that sale and yesterday's planned disposals and closure will reduce refining capacity from 2 million to 1.4 million barrels per day, well below BP's own product requirement of 1.8

million barrels per day. The refinery cutbacks will bring BP in line with the industry leaders which typically refine less product than they sell. Overcapacity has created a buyer's market for oil products.

BP plans to sell its Lima refinery in Ohio, which is surplus to marketing requirements. The company intends to upgrade its Toledo, Ohio, refinery with a \$200 million investment programme. The Lavera refinery in the south of France will also be sold and the Pernis section of the Nerefco refinery in Rotterdam, jointly owned with Texaco, will be closed with the loss of 350 jobs.

BP will be left with 11 refineries worldwide and John

Browne, chief executive, said the company was determined that its assets should be among the top 25 per cent in efficiency and profitability.

Refineries are under pressure worldwide because of excess capacity and sluggish demand. BP reckons that global refining margins were only \$1.70 per barrel last year. They have since improved to \$2.40 but the company expects deterioration as new refineries in Asia come on stream this year. Mr Browne said that debottlenecking and efficiency improvements at existing plants was further increasing capacity at the rate of 0.7 per cent per year.

The exceptional charge includes \$610 million for anticipated losses on sale and

closure costs. A further provision of \$465 million relates to provision for potential environmental liabilities. BP has spent \$1.3 billion over the last three years bringing six of its refineries up to its top quartile standard and intends to bring the remaining five up to the same level. However, Mr Browne said that the disposal would mean that annual investment in refining of \$450 million would be reduced to \$300 million. He said that the company would not rule out partnerships with investors for the Lavera and Lima refineries if an outright sale could not be achieved. He indicated that closure also remained an option

Tempos, page 24

Reg Vardy's record six months

NEW dealerships and strong organic growth in vehicle sales and aftersales helped Reg Vardy, the Sunderland motor dealer, to a 22.3 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £6.15 million in the six months to October 31 (Philip Pangalos writes).

Peter Vardy, chairman, said the period was the "busiest in the group's history", boosted by several new dealerships and the key N registration month of August. Turnover expanded by 51.6 per cent to £279.8 million.

The interim dividend is raised 12.5 per cent to 2.25p (2p), payable on April 30, from earnings ahead 20 per cent to 9p (7.5p) a share. The shares dipped 4p to 269p.

Matthew Clark boycotts alcoholic soft drinks

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MATTHEW CLARK, the drinks company which is the biggest cider producer in the UK, yesterday pledged not to produce an alcoholic soft drink and added its voice to the growing criticism over the drink, which this week led to the main drinks companies adopting a code of conduct.

Peter Aikens, chief executive of the company, which comprises Gaymer and Taunton ciders, said: "We won't produce one because we do not agree with drinks being aimed at such young people."

Although cider is traditionally a younger person's drink, Mr Aikens said he was confident the company's brands could not be mistaken for more innocuous drink.

The company is also in talks with its largest customers on whether it should weaken its

cider brands before October, when a new tax will hit ciders above 7.5 per cent alcohol content. The tax of 8p a pint, announced in the last Budget, would affect premium brands such as Diamond White.

Mr Aikens said: "We are discussing who would bear the brunt of the cost, and if our customers decided they would prefer a lower strength, then we could produce it."

The company, which bought Taunton last November, plans to spend about £18.5 million on restructuring, but estimates cost savings of £11 million a year. It said it had achieved higher cost savings than anticipated from the absorption of Gaymer, which it bought last year, and was realising benefits of £10 million a year, £1 million ahead of its predictions.

Matthew Clark, which more than doubled its half-year pre-tax profits on the contribution of Gaymer from £7.2 million to £15.4 million, cast a cloud over its performance — which had benefited from a growth in the cider market and demand for its mineral water — with a decline in wholesale operating profits.

Overall margins at the wholesale units fell by an average of one percentage point, while operating profits fell 11 per cent to £1.9 million.

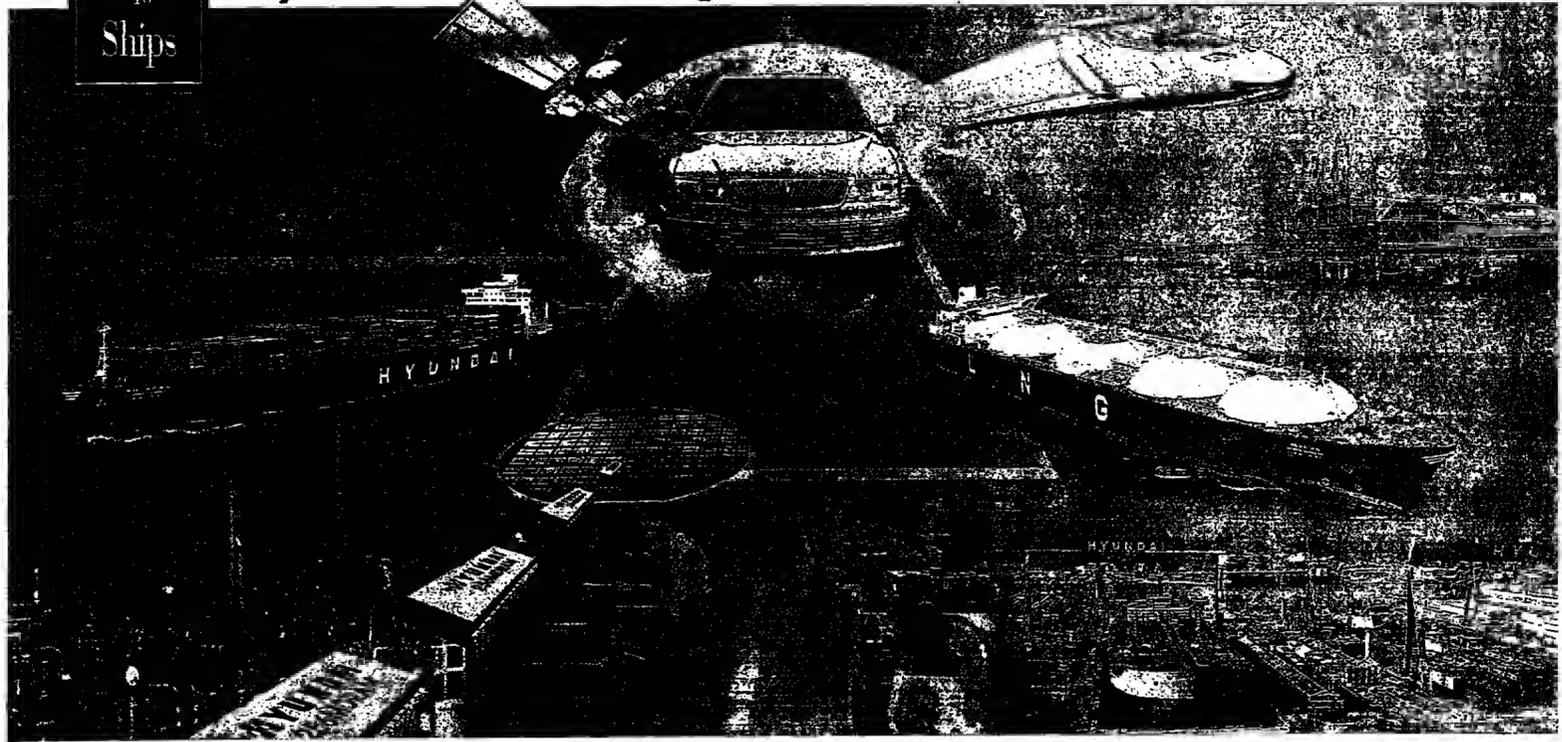
Last month the company bought Critterons, the country's third largest wholesaler, from Forte.

The interim dividend, payable April 9, was lifted 12.5 per cent to 9p.

Tempos, page 24

From Chips to Ships

Hyundai. Working Towards A Better Tomorrow.



For half a century, Hyundai Business Group has been working towards a single goal. The goal of making this world a more comfortable and better place to live for everyone. Today we have earned a place in your daily lives.

From chips to telecommunications satellites. From a full line of passenger cars to all types of commercial vehicles. From subways to high speed trains. From infrastructure to turn-key base engineering and construction projects.

From super-tankers to advanced LNG carriers. We've become a part of your lives in more than 170 countries around the world.

Hyundai, working together to create innovative synergies, innovative products.

HYUNDAI
Building A Better World Through Innovative Technology

AUTOMOBILES, ELECTRONICS, SHIPBUILDING, ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION, MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT, PETROCHEMICALS, TRADING & TRANSPORTATION. Find out what Hyundai can do for you: Hyundai Corporation K.P.O. Box 92, Seoul, Korea. Tel + 82-2-746-1873, Fax + 82-2-741-2341.

صكنا من الأهل

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Market-makers fight back to stem slide

SHARES on the London stock market put up a resilient performance in the face of the near 100-point fall in the Dow Jones average overnight on Wall Street.

Market-makers were quick off the mark in order to deter potential sellers and it appears that their tactics met with some success. At one stage the FT-SE 100 index was down more than 26 points, but it later rallied, helped by an opening rally in New York, to close off the bottom with a fall of 16.6 points to 3,654.9 on turnover of 865 million shares.

The sharp fall on Wall Street had been anticipated for some time. The failure to resolve the deadlock over the US federal budget deficit provided the opportunity for the correction to be made.

Brokers in London said there was little genuine selling pressure as institutional investors continued to take a bullish view of prospects over the medium term.

There were also other factors underpinning the market. Large sums, accrued following the expiry of five-year Tessa schemes, need to be reinvested as well as the profits accrued if Granada wins control of Forte.

There appears to be no shortage of takeover speculation, with traders convinced that another chip will soon find itself under the hammer. The money yesterday was resting on Grand Metropolitan, up 4 1/2 p at 459p, and Ladbroke, up 4 p at 152p. Talk that Bass, down 7p at 710p, may want to bid for Ladbroke has been revived.

There was further heavy turnover in Forte as the arbitrageurs continued to take a keen interest in gambling on a Granada victory. By the close a total of 40.5 million Forte shares had been traded as the price edged forward another 8 1/2 p to 368 1/2 p. Granada, which earlier this week raised its offer to £3.8 billion, also climbed 1p to 66 1/2 p.

United Biscuits came under late pressure, falling 1p to 25 1/2 p, as dealers expressed disappointment with the revised terms of the Keebler frozen foods disposal.

The stores sector attracted a good deal of attention as the leading players continued to account for trading conditions in the busy run-up to Christmas. The market gave a lukewarm response to news of



A 4p share dip for, left to right, Matthew Clark's Hugh Etheridge, Andy Nash, Peter Aikens and Peter Huntley

downgrade their profit forecasts for the current year. Storehouse fell 2 1/2 p to 300p after reporting static sales in the six week run-up to Christmas, but increased gross margins resulted in higher profits.

The news was little better from Sears, with the group now planning to halt the roll out of its Saxe and Curless shoe shops and selling

the year pre-tax profits grew from £3.05 million to £1.01 million with earnings up nearly one-third. Lord Harris of Peckham, chairman, said the group currently had 221 stores but planned to double that number within the next two to three years.

The news from stores like Sears and Storehouse was gloomy, prompting brokers to

house from £115 million to £107 million. Sears ended 1 1/2 p higher at 99 1/2 p.

There was some good news at last for shareholders of McDonnell Douglas Information Systems (MDIS) as it emerged that Geac Computer Corporation has acquired a near 4 per cent stake in the company. MDIS ended 9p higher at 59p.

Matthew Clark, the cider maker, failed to benefit from pre-tax profits that more than doubled. The shares fell 4p to 68p. The group said the improvement had been fuelled by better than expected savings from Gaymers. The good news was undermined by a slide in margins at its wholesale division.

A report in The Times lifted Cable & Wireless 4p to 46p. The report confirmed that C&W failed to agree terms with American Telephone and Telegraph last year over the sale of its Mercury telecom business. Traders in London take the view that AT&T will not let the matter rest there and come back with a definite offer. This could leave the way open for a full bid for C&W from BT, 2 1/2 p easier at 35 1/2 p.

GIILT EDGED: Prices opened lower, reflecting overnight falls in US Treasury bonds and continental bond markets. But the appearance of a few bargain hunters provided the signal for a rally, with prices edging back into positive territory by lunchtime. This proved short-lived, with US Treasury bonds extending their losses in resumed trading.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt traded in narrow limits throughout much of the session before closing all-square at £107 1/2 as a total of 68,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, brokers reported a further steepening of the yield curve as the longer end of the market underperformed. Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished a couple of ticks easier at £102 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 firmed 1/2 p at £104 1/2.

CI NEW YORK: Shares were firm at midday after two days of heavy losses, with bargain-hunters particularly buying heavily beaten technology issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 25.65 points to 5,053.59, with advances beating declines by four to three.

Unilever fell 2 1/2 p to £13.17 after a downgrading by ABN Amro Hoare Goetts, the broker. Like other brokers, Hoare is becoming increasingly worried about British companies with interests in Germany. It has cut its forecast for 1996 by £60 million to £2.5 billion and for 1997 by £40 million to £2.79 billion.

Millets and Sears Retail (Holland) The measures are likely to cost £65 million. The picture was made worse by the decline in overall sales, mainly the result of a near 12 per cent decline in sales at British Shoe. BZW has slashed its profit estimate for Sears in the current year by £10 million to £105 million. It has also reduced its estimate for Store-

house from £115 million to £107 million. Sears ended 1 1/2 p higher at 99 1/2 p.

There was some good news at last for shareholders of McDonnell Douglas Information Systems (MDIS) as it emerged that Geac Computer Corporation has acquired a near 4 per cent stake in the company. MDIS ended 9p higher at 59p.

Matthew Clark, the cider maker, failed to benefit from pre-tax profits that more than doubled. The shares fell 4p to 68p. The group said the improvement had been fuelled by better than expected savings from Gaymers. The good news was undermined by a slide in margins at its wholesale division.

A report in The Times lifted Cable & Wireless 4p to 46p. The report confirmed that C&W failed to agree terms with American Telephone and Telegraph last year over the sale of its Mercury telecom business. Traders in London take the view that AT&T will not let the matter rest there and come back with a definite offer. This could leave the way open for a full bid for C&W from BT, 2 1/2 p easier at 35 1/2 p.

GIILT EDGED: Prices opened lower, reflecting overnight falls in US Treasury bonds and continental bond markets. But the appearance of a few bargain hunters provided the signal for a rally, with prices edging back into positive territory by lunchtime. This proved short-lived, with US Treasury bonds extending their losses in resumed trading.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt traded in narrow limits throughout much of the session before closing all-square at £107 1/2 as a total of 68,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, brokers reported a further steepening of the yield curve as the longer end of the market underperformed. Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished a couple of ticks easier at £102 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 firmed 1/2 p at £104 1/2.

CI NEW YORK: Shares were firm at midday after two days of heavy losses, with bargain-hunters particularly buying heavily beaten technology issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 25.65 points to 5,053.59, with advances beating declines by four to three.

Unilever fell 2 1/2 p to £13.17 after a downgrading by ABN Amro Hoare Goetts, the broker. Like other brokers, Hoare is becoming increasingly worried about British companies with interests in Germany. It has cut its forecast for 1996 by £60 million to £2.5 billion and for 1997 by £40 million to £2.79 billion.

Millets and Sears Retail (Holland) The measures are likely to cost £65 million. The picture was made worse by the decline in overall sales, mainly the result of a near 12 per cent decline in sales at British Shoe. BZW has slashed its profit estimate for Sears in the current year by £10 million to £105 million. It has also reduced its estimate for Store-

house from £115 million to £107 million. Sears ended 1 1/2 p higher at 99 1/2 p.

There was some good news at last for shareholders of McDonnell Douglas Information Systems (MDIS) as it emerged that Geac Computer Corporation has acquired a near 4 per cent stake in the company. MDIS ended 9p higher at 59p.

MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns for New York (midday), Tokyo, Hoog Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, and London. Includes indices like Dow Jones, Nikkei Average, Hang Seng, etc.

Table with columns for Cash Conv Ind, Century Ins, Com de Part Fin, Cox Insurance, etc.

Table with columns for Ransomes n/p (48), SWP Group n/p (24), Seafield Res n/p (65), etc.

Table with columns for RISES: Pacer Pac, Chrysler, Boods Durant, etc.

Table with columns for FALLS: United Cables, General Cable, Fortinon, etc.

Table with columns for Commodities: COCA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR (FOB), MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

Table with columns for GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES: WHEAT, POTATO (G), RUBBER (100% ISS OF P/R).

Table with columns for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES: FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, Three Month Sterling, etc.

Table with columns for MONEY RATES (%): Base Rates, Prime Bank Rates, Sterling Money Rates, etc.

Table with columns for EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS: Currency, Dollar, Frenchmark, etc.

Table with columns for GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Barr & Co): Bullion, Platinum, etc.

Table with columns for STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES: M30 Rates for Jan 11, etc.

TEMPUS Refining the oil industry

IF BP had yesterday announced it was shutting down three refineries, rather than proposing to sell two plants and close part of a third, the market would have rejoiced.

Turning barrels of crude oil into gasoline, diesel and heating oil is a business that loses money worldwide and the already thin margins earned by refineries are likely to get worse as their number increases.

What the oil industry needs is fewer refineries, but one million extra barrels of capacity will come on stream this year adding to the gradual drip of barrels from debottlenecking and more efficient use of plant.

BP deserves credit for taking aggressive action to attempt to put its own operations into profit but savings of up to \$150 million per year could take years to come through compared with the immediate hit of over \$1

billion this year. The problem is that refineries not only cost a fortune to build but environmental regulation imposes a huge price on shutting them down.

The marginal cost of running a loss-making plant is easily concealed within the accounts of an oil company when refining is lumped together with the highly profitable business of marketing oil products.

Refineries tend to absorb cash as new products and processes demand new kit, taking funds that BP would rather spend on more profitable upstream activities.

BP had little choice but to reduce its output which was running well ahead of the barrels it could sell but the \$1 billion sacrifice will do little to change the shaky economics of the industry.

A little more disclosure by companies of the cost of their refineries might do more.

LIAM STRONG is adamant that the clearing out at Sears has ended. But City institutions want more. Long criticised by the City for its hotchpotch of businesses, Sears until recently encompassed women's wear, shoes, sports-

wear, mail order and Stridges department store.

Spoils war has gone, as have a brace of shoe retailers, and yesterday Strong revealed that Saxe, Curless, Millets and the Dutch shoe business are the latest to face expulsion.

The move is welcome but is considered too little and rather late. Sears is in the final year of a three-year recovery programme but profits have yet to show much improvement.

Analysts have again trimmed their forecasts - to about £105 million, excluding yes-

terday's £65 million restructuring charge.

Sears needs cash to invest in its businesses and the move to out-source a range of services such as accounting will free up about £23 million of funds.

Withdrawal from the latest batch of businesses will free further funds but the benefits are not expected until 2000.

The hope remains that Strong will further dismantle his sprawling empire with a sale of the women's wear brands or the mail order business.

Shareholders' patience is beginning to wear thin and unless Sears demonstrates solid gains without further asset sales, investors may seek disposals in the boardroom.



Under Dieter Bock's regime, profitability has vastly improved and it is not unreasonable to assume further gains but Lornho still generates a huge amount of profit from Africa.

Currency fluctuations have in the past had a devastating impact on Lornho's retained earnings and last year reduced the value of retained profits by £35 million.

The main advantage of a demerger for shareholders should be to put a spotlight on the profits and cash generation potential of the Lornho rump.

Matthew Clark HAVING bought Baby-cham, Gaymer's elder, War-nink's (since sold) and Taunton Cider in the past year, Matthew Clark is unlikely to be filling his glass again soon.

With gearing of 50 per cent the company needs to rebuild resources by generating cash from the assets.

A successful wholesale business will cushion the company from heavy exposure to the fads of drinkers.

While cider is undoubtedly flavour of the month, who is to say it won't follow bitter downwards and into a quiet corner of the pub?

Edited by Carl Mortished

Advertisement for 'SALAMATI' featuring a stylized logo and text.

Pressure to compete wins over yet another convert to banking status

Mutual attraction wears off for the Woolwich

The Woolwich's decision to abandon 150 years of mutualism came after much soul-searching and widespread leaking of its plans. Conversion to banking status, the Woolwich argued, is the only way it could hope to retain its position as Britain's fifth biggest mortgage lender, expand its business and compete head-on with rival bancassurance.

With the Alliance & Leicester poised to announce similar plans, the Woolwich's move effectively signals the end for big, national mutuals. Mutuality, said Peter Robinson, new chief executive of the Woolwich, has a place for a building society that has a strong regional bias, and that sticks to its core business.

He said the Woolwich needs to "escape from the constraints of prescriptive legislation," needs greater flexibility in funding operations, "particularly in gaining wider access to capital, with which to fuel increased business development, including acquisitions; and more definite clarity in the relationship between customers purchasing, for example, fee-earning services such as current accounts and unit trusts, and those investing and borrowing members who actually own the business."

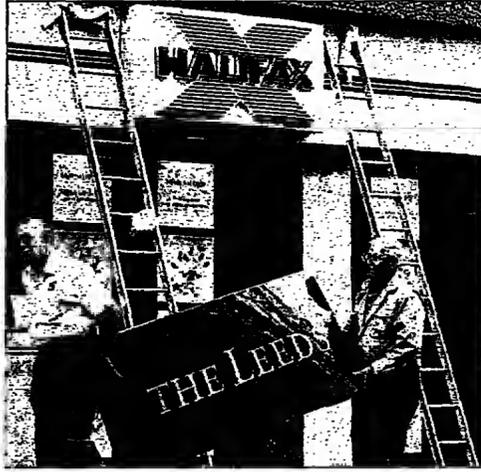
The Woolwich flotation, valuing the society at an estimated £3 billion, is likely to mean a rough average of £1,000 for each of its 3.5 million qualifying members.

Given the trend for large societies to convert to bank status and seek a stock market listing, Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, estimated that nearly one in three of the population are poised to benefit from a payout and, if mergers and acquisitions continue at the present rate, one in two will benefit.

Before the Woolwich announced its plans, proposed conversions totalled £11 billion. The Woolwich takes this to £14 billion. An Alliance & Leicester float at an estimated £2.5 billion would lift the total to £16.5 billion.

Abbey National set the ball rolling in 1989 when it floated at a stock market value of £1.7 billion and qualifying members benefited from the distribution of 100 free shares worth 130p each and the opportunity to apply for additional shares at 130p. Abbey shareholders who kept their shares would now have a holding worth £632. The bank is capitalised at £8.3 billion. On the first day of trading the bank was 100 per cent owned by its 5.5 million members. Today it is 50 per cent owned by institutions, although 2 million people still hold shares.

Since Abbey National first tested the stock market water for converted building societies, and proved that it can be a successful business move, others have been keen to follow. The sweeteners to convince members to vote for conversion to plc have grown considerably since the Abbey's modest free share offer. Abbey broke the mould again last year



Whichever firms remain mutual, change is being forced on the industry, and not only by the departure of the biggest societies

when it launched the first hostile bid for a building society, making a stock market announcement that it had tried and failed to hold merger talks with National & Provincial. The move initially infuriated N&P, which had been close to agreeing a merger and conversion with the Nationwide. However, forced to put its owners' interests first, the society effectively put itself up for auction, attracting interest from five organisations before reaching agreement to sell itself to Abbey for £1.35 billion.

N&P's 1.34 million qualifying members are to receive at least £500 in Abbey shares. Savers of more than two years' standing will receive

£750, which they can receive in cash, and an extra payment depending on the size of their savings account. Such consolidation in the industry is a factor in the sudden urgency for societies such as the Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester to convert to bank status. Lloyds Bank said it planned to start a "mortgage war" with the £1.8 billion takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, which was completed last August. This saw nearly one million C&G members receive bonus payments averaging £2,500. The top payout, however, was a generous £14,044.

The Halifax merged with the Leeds Building Society, also in

August. The new giant plans a stock market flotation this year, which is likely to value the firm at £10 billion. Qualifying members will receive between £800 and £1,000 in shares, with cash payments to those under the age of 18 and with less than £100 in their accounts.

The Alliance & Leicester, which also owns Girobank, is considering a range of options. These include a takeover or merger followed by a stock market listing or a straightforward flotation such as that proposed by the Woolwich. A flotation announcement is believed to be scheduled for next month.

The Nationwide, which will be the biggest building society when the

Halifax converts, said, yesterday that it had no plans to convert. The society appears to have decided to batten down the hatches after its failed attempt to merge with N&P.

Brian Davis, its chief executive, said: "We have absolutely no plans to do anything other than stay as a building society." He said the society can achieve everything it wants to as a mutual society.

As the UK's eighth biggest retail financial services firm, Nationwide, is committed to mutuality until it has fully resolved the problems it faced after a difficult merger with Anglia. It is seen as a takeover target for a firm such as BAT, the tobacco and financial services group, which

is known to wish to expand. For these building societies that have little chance of converting to plc status, unless one of the bigger players tables a takeover bid, mergers with each other are the only practical way forward. An early indication of how these might work was announced at the beginning of the month when the £700 million Stroud & Swindon said that it was to take over the £100 million City & Metropolitan. The move will trigger bonus payments of up to £2,500 for thousands of C&M members.

At the time of the announcement, Richard Payne, chief executive of the S&S which is ranked twenty-fifth in the building society league, told *The Times*: "We are not a predator and this is not a hostile action. It is very much an old-fashioned agreed merger between two building societies who believe in the long-term future of mutuality."

Ken Culley, chairman of the Building Societies Association, said of the Woolwich move: "Following recent intense speculation, this announcement comes as no surprise. However, this decision is one that the Woolwich Building Society has taken for itself alone. There will still be more than 70 building societies and they will continue to play an important part in the financial system. As recent mortgage rate cuts and analysis of the maturing Texas show, building societies consistently offer very competitive products to their members and are popular with the public. There is every reason for the building society sector to continue to thrive."

Whichever firms remain mutual, change is being forced on the industry, and not only by the departure of its biggest societies. After completing a two-year review of building societies last year the Treasury granted the mutuals a number of significant concessions, such as being able to raise money more easily on the capital markets. But ministers indicated that in return they wanted boards of directors to be more accountable to their members and to consider sharing profits in the good years by paying a form of dividend or offering higher savings or lower mortgage rates.

The medium-sized societies are divided in their response to the conversion mania going on around them. Bradford & Bingley has said it is committed to independence and mutuality. Britannia is tipped as showing interest in the stock market. Bristol & West, which is trying to divest itself of Hamptons estate agency, is seen as a takeover target. Despite protestations by smaller societies like Bradford & Bingley, it is worth bearing in mind that Joo Foulds, chairman of the Halifax, was still espousing the virtues of mutuality only months before it announced its plans to merge with the Leeds and float on the stock market.

PATRICIA TEHAN AND ROBERT MILLER



Laura Ashley's secret shopper

Laura Ashley has won a new fan and half a customer. I say "half" because Julie Ramshaw, five years at Morgan Stanley, where she is a vice-president and the retail analyst, is joining the soft furnishings and clothing group's executive committee on January 22. Julie admits she has bought Laura Ashley furnishings in her time - but not in clothes. In the past, she has also been a fervent seller of the shares. However, since new management under chief executive Ann Iverson started to improve the group's fortunes, she's turned buyer. Where Julie buys her clothes remains her secret but for her undoubted retail expertise, it's little wonder Laura Ashley approached her with a job offer.



Whatever makes you think they're with the Woolwich?

AFTER the demise of Saxon in favour of anonymous-sounding new brand names at Sear's British Shoe, wags now predict its next format will be called Shoes-Were-Us.

Red carpet

NO GUESSES as to why the man to be introduced to the House of Lords on February 7 and who started selling rugs at the age of 15 has chosen to be known by the name, style and title of Baron Harris of Peckham, of Peckham in the London Borough of Southwark. After all, it was in the Peckham market in 1957 that he started on the magic carpet to becoming a multi-millionaire.

All aboard

FUN and games at the Woolwich photocall yesterday, and I wager the society's Strand branch is soon treated to a lick of paint. Asked to pose for photographers outside the odd-shaped building, one of the least lovely examples of the society's 500 strong chain, Peter Robinson, the chief executive, was heard to mutter that the facade was terrible. Strolling back down the Strand afterwards, photographers flippantly suggested he jump aboard a nearby number six bus. Robinson readily agreed, even though the Aldwych to Kensal Rise route goes nowhere near Woolwich.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Time to close the competitiveness gap

Corporate Britain is failing to compete effectively enough, or extensively enough, and unless we begin to address the structural and cultural weaknesses that constrain business growth, the situation will worsen.

The all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, which spent nearly 18 months examining almost every aspect of manufacturing competitiveness, gave warning that the "opportunity to bridge the competitiveness gap will be temporary, given the rise of the newly industrialised countries, and action therefore needs to begin urgently."

The Government's Competitiveness White Paper acknowledges that British industry is losing out in the race for market share, and draws attention to the "long tail" of poor to mediocre companies finding it harder and harder to compete.

On virtually every independent measure of national competitiveness, the UK's ranking has fallen dramatically over the past 17 years.

According to the World Economic Forum, the UK has slipped towards the bottom end of the international prosperity league table, only two places above Chile. A similar survey by the OECD placed Britain eighteenth out of 24.

Britain's trade balance continues to widen, our share of world trade is falling in relative terms, and our investment record remains embarrassingly poor by international standards.

Such a lacklustre performance should be ringing alarm bells in every government department.

The Treasury, which has consistently overshadowed the Department of Trade and Industry on competitiveness issues, claims that corporate Britain is "broadly on the right track as things are", and points complacently to the growth of inward investment as a symbol of success.

The level of inward investment has slowed dramatically since the late 1980s, and is now only a third of what British companies invest abroad. Foreign investment is helping to revitalise our manufacturing base, but we also desperately

need to increase investment by British-based firms. The Government also continues to trumpet the growth of the small firms sector. Unfortunately, the number of small firms has fallen year on year since 1989 and there has been little evidence of small firms growing into clusters of expanding export-led medium-sized companies akin to the German *Mittelstand*.

The scarcity of medium-sized companies, which currently account for just 0.4 per cent of enterprises in the UK, has left many of our largest companies increasingly reliant on overseas suppliers.

With a few exceptions, growth among the larger firms has also been disappointing, especially in manufacturing. The corporate philosophy of "more from less" has raised productivity levels and boosted profits, but this has not translated into investment in new capacity.

The core problem seems to be that the availability of income dedicated for investment continues to be squeezed by the relentless shareholder pressure for higher and higher dividend growth.

Industrialists complain that they are unable to look for "more from more" because the financial markets are obsessed with maximising shareholder value, and are immune from

the long-term destabilising effects.

Corporate Britain seems to have locked itself into a financial system that rewards short-term dividend growth and deters longer-term capital investment, especially in the more intangible areas, such as skills training, R&D and innovation, which are critical to improved competitiveness.

The problem is exacerbated by the preoccupation with short-term accounting measures, the spread of performance-related pay based on short-term profits, and the Government's tax takeover and merger regulations.

The big pension funds,

Corporate Britain is locked into a system that rewards short-term rises in dividend and deters the long-term drive for capital growth, says Richard Caborn in a call for public policy to be used to help more companies to become world class



which manage more than £400 billion of investments (one third of all personal wealth in UK), are especially open to criticism. The select committee concluded that, in spite of the long-term nature of the liabilities of pension funds, "they regard short-term dividends as a more important part of the return on equity investment than long-term capital growth".

Employees, who are the ultimate beneficiaries, often find themselves employed by companies that under-invest, and that blame the problem on the need to meet the short-term profit expectation of the

pension funds to which they are contributing. Government has a key role to play in removing the barriers to long-term investment and modifying the attitudes of large institutional investors. Labour is considering changes in the law to extend the rights of pension beneficiaries and trustees over their investment managers, alongside proposals to reward long-term share ownership, reforms to competition policy and take-over regulations, and plans for new regional investment schemes under the auspices of regional development agencies.

The party's corporate tax review team is also examining the various fiscal options available to encourage financial institutions to place less emphasis on high dividend growth, and other measures to enable a cultural shift.

Governments worldwide are exploring similar measures to boost investment for future prosperity.

The Clinton Administration, for example, is working with the US Competitiveness Council on standards for measuring human resource investment, and on a radical reform programme to promote investment partnerships between institutional shareholders, company managers and staff.

In Australia, the focus of the

vision of the company as a community of partnership in which each employee has a stake, and where a company's responsibilities are more clearly delineated. Any system of corporate governance, for example, that excludes the voice of employees, and fails to promote job security and skills training, is unlikely to gain public acceptance.

A low-wage, low-skills, hire-and-fire labour market not only makes for poor corporate governance, but seriously weakens the UK's long-term competitive position.

As the EU's Competitiveness Advisory Group said in its report last summer to the Council of Ministers, "the competitiveness game for Europe mainly revolves around a country's ability to accumulate and improve its human capital".

Labour recognises that the status quo is no longer a viable option to meeting the competitiveness challenge, and we intend to use every tool of public policy to turn Britain into a world-class economy.

Richard Caborn, MP, is shadow Minister for National Competitiveness



Trade in and trade out, but many British companies are failing to compete in international markets

Informative:

With effect from 1 February 1996 the following rates will apply:

Mortgage Rate		
	From	To
Loans of up to £49,999	7.69% pa	7.49% pa
Loans of £50,000 and above agreed after 8 July 1991	7.54% pa	7.34% pa

Mortgage and Home Improvement Loan agreements will be varied accordingly.

Equity Release Loan		
	From	To
Loans of up to £49,999	7.69% pa	7.49% pa
Loans of £50,000 and above	7.54% pa	7.34% pa

If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:

If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:

All loan amounts 9.69% pa 9.49% pa

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc Member HSBC Group

صكنا من الله صل

Siemens plans more investment with orders set to top £2bn

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SIEMENS PLC, the UK arm of Siemens AG, the German electronics and engineering group, expects British orders to exceed £2 billion this year and plans more acquisitions in the UK information technology sector to give its UK market position a significant boost.

investment is needed as well as acquisitions to fulfil its ambitions and potential. Herr Gehrels said: "The market for information systems in the UK is worth more than £10 billion [annually]... Clearly our position is rather weak and therefore I think further acquisitions will be necessary to strengthen our position significantly."

He said it is expected to continue growing at about 6 per cent in 1996, the same as 1995. "As in previous years, we mean to grow faster than this," Herr Gehrels added.

In 1995 Siemens plc saw flat turnover of £1.29 billion, though there is an increase of about 20 per cent if distortions in the previous year are stripped out. Post-tax profits amounted to about 2 per cent of turnover.

Orders received grew £200 million, or 6.4 per cent, breaking the £15 billion mark for the first time. Past investment, especially in research and development, helped exports to rise 29.8 per cent to £268 million. R&D spend grew 8 per cent to £133 million. Employee numbers rose 2.7 per cent to 10,224.

Herr Gehrels said Siemens is happy with its investment in GPT, the UK's largest telecoms manufacturer in which it has a 40 per cent stake. "Our acquisition of Plessey, and the subsequent stake in GPT, gave us a good position in the UK telecoms market. Siemens is very happy with its investment in GPT. It's a top performer; there are no plans to change the arrangement."

Persimmon aims to buy Trafalgar's Ideal Homes

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

PERSIMMON is in talks with debt-laden Trafalgar House about buying its Ideal Homes subsidiary and expects to announce a deal by the end of this month.

However, Beazer Homes said it was "surprised and disappointed" at this news. It said it had also made an offer which had been ignored. "It should be at least talking rather than doing an exclusive deal," a spokesman added.

SmithKline reorganises healthcare

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the UK drugs group, is to combine its healthcare services units into a single division. The division - Healthcare Services - is to be run by Tadataka Yamada, currently chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan Medical Centre.

Persimmon would finance the purchase with a combination of debt and equity, raised through a rights issue. Persimmon shares fell after yesterday's announcement of talks, dipping 1p to 198p in reaction to the likelihood of dilution. Analysts said the deal was potentially good for Persimmon.

Pennington, page 23



Lord Harris, left, Ian Saedy, centre, finance director, and John Kitching, sales director

Carpetright profits up 26%

By SARAH BAGNALL

CARPETRIGHT, the carpet retailer, saw its shares jump 15p to a high of 439p after Lord Harris of Peckham, the group's newly ennobled chairman and chief executive, unveiled a better than expected rise in interim profits.

Carpetright, which was floated on the stock market at 148p a share in 1993, has opened 40 stores since the start of the year, lifting the total to 221. Lord Harris said the launch of Premier Carpets, the new concession format,

affected by a weak carpet market and the exceptionally long hot summer. He said second-half trading was above expectations and that he was confident about future profitability.

UB takes price cut in US disposal

By MARTIN BARROW

UNITED BISCUITS, the British maker of savoury snacks and biscuits, has been forced to accept a reduced price for its American frozen food interests. The company disclosed yesterday that it has completed the sale of the frozen foods business of Keebler to Windsor Foods for just \$70 million in cash.

John Warren, finance director of United Biscuits, said that the sale proceeds "remain satisfactory in the light of recent trading trends, the alternative sale options for the business and UB's decision to withdraw from its US operations as a whole".

The proposed sale of the Keebler businesses and UB's exit from America were announced in July, when shareholders were warned of a sharp fall in first-profits and a cut in the interim dividend.

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFER

TORONTO & NIAGARA FALLS
5 NIGHTS FROM JUST £399
DEPARTURES IN APRIL & OCTOBER 1996

Journey to the Canadian province of Ontario to experience one of the world's great natural wonders. The holiday begins with a three night stay in Toronto, on the shores of Lake Ontario. You can discover its many attractions including the soaring CN Tower, the Eaton Centre boasting over 300 retailers and the harbour with its waterside shops and restaurants. From there you travel to Niagara Falls for your final night's stay where you will be able to witness the majesty of the cascading waters.

Optional excursions include a city tour and evening harbour cruise in Toronto and a helicopter ride in Niagara offering a unique and spectacular view of the Falls.

THE HOLIDAY PRICE INCLUDES

- Scheduled flights between London Heathrow and Toronto.
- FREE coach travel to the airport from selected pick-up points.
- Three nights accommodation in Toronto in a good quality city centre hotel.
- One night's accommodation in Niagara in a good quality hotel overlooking the Falls.
- All transfers in Canada.
- Services of a tour manager.

Send for your brochure today by telephoning Festive Holidays on **0990 55 33 55** or return the coupon below to:

THE TIMES TORONTO & NIAGARA FALLS OFFER.
Festive Holidays Limited, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AB

This holiday is operated by Festive Holidays, a company independent of Times Newspapers Ltd.
ABTA V106X ATOL 2172

Toronto & Niagara Falls Offer
Please forward me an itinerary and a booking form

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____
Address: _____
Post Code: _____

If you do not wish to receive further information from Times Newspapers or companies specially selected by us, please tick the box. **THURON**

Sales of new cars in EU advance

THE number of new cars put on to European Union roads last year was 0.5 per cent higher than in 1994, the Association of European Car Manufacturers reported yesterday.

Rush for gold in Australia

GOLD fever swept Australia yesterday, with investors scrambling for gold stocks as the metal's price broke through the critical US\$400 level.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A YEAR'S FREE HEALTH CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Enjoy a free day at a health club

AN INTRODUCTION to a health club is an ideal way to start a fitter lifestyle. And today The Times invites readers to spend a free day at one of the 73 health clubs throughout the UK who are participating in this offer (a full list was published on Monday and yesterday).

Exercise not only helps to keep your body young and supple, it is also good for the heart, lungs and circulation - and it makes you feel good. So this is a great chance to start shaping a new you.

As our guest you will be given a free fitness assessment, free use of most facilities at the club, such as its swimming pool, sauna, steam room, aerobics classes or gym.

By taking up our offer of a free day at a participating health club, you will automatically be entered into a prize draw to receive a free one-year membership to the club of your choice. A total of £30,000 worth of free memberships is available.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE FITNESS DAY
Collect four of the six tokens appearing daily until tomorrow and attach them to one of the vouchers published yesterday and on Monday. Book your free day by telephone first, quoting The Times offer. The voucher, which must be presented to the club when you visit, is valid for one visit to one club. This offer is valid until February 29, 1996.

THE TIMES FREE HEALTH CLUB VISIT TOKEN 5

Winners keep GGT ahead

ACCOUNT wins from CompuServe, Mastenard and a chocolate selection helped to cushion GGT Group, the advertising and marketing group, from patchy spending and a generally slow recovery in the UK.

Computer followed the departure of Dollar Rent-a-Car. The company, which has been installing new management in Europe and reducing some business in the US, increased sales \$5 per cent, to £156 million, and raised pre-tax profits for the half year to October 31 by 9.6 per cent, to £2.9 million.

Equities extend their losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
BANKS																																													
DISTRIBUTORS																																													
BREWERIES																																													
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS																																													
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT																																													
ELECTRICITY																																													
ELECTRONIC & ELECT																																													
BUILDING MATERIALS																																													
BUSINESS SERVICES																																													
CHEMICALS																																													
ENGINEERING																																													
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES																																													
FOOD MANUFACTURERS																																													
HEALTHCARE																																													
HOUSEHOLD GOODS																																													
INSURANCE																																													
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																																													
LEISURE & HOTELS																																													
MEDIA																																													
Mining																																													
Oil & Gas																																													
Other Financial																																													
Property																																													
RETAILERS, FOOD																																													
RETAILERS, GENERAL																																													
SPRITS, WINES & CIDERS																																													
SUPPORT SERVICES																																													
TELECOMMUNICATIONS																																													
TEXTILES & APPAREL																																													
Transport																																													
Water																																													

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
BRITISH FUNDS																																													
SHORTS (under 5 years)																																													
LONGS (over 15 years)																																													
UNDATED																																													
INDEX-LINKED																																													
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)																																													

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
PHARMACEUTICALS																																													
PRINTING & PAPER																																													
PROPERTY																																													
RETAILERS, GENERAL																																													
WATER																																													

first direct

"I don't have to get dressed to go to my bank"

for 24 hour telephone banking

0800 24 24 24

Member HSBC Group

up £20

Donnell shares on Geac stake

Shares lifts pay

Network refines

Products rise

Dividends

As a free health

مركز الامن

POSTS

**HONG KONG
ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**

Education Officer

FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 1996

Highly competitive financial package

The English Schools Foundation (ESF) plays a vital role in the infrastructure of Hong Kong as an international centre and will continue to do so well into the twenty first century. We are the largest independent school organisation in Asia, 15 schools, 10,000 students from 55 different nationalities. We have an income of HK\$700 million (£58M) and a capital programme of HK\$400 million (£33M). Founded in 1967, the ESF has charitable status and aims to provide a high quality, cost-effective education to English speaking students in Hong Kong. Our curriculum is based on the English National Curriculum suitably adapted to the Asian context.

We are looking for:

- + a dynamic, creative senior manager, with recent experience of headship and a wider educational management role, to join our small Foundation Management Team.
- You will contribute to:
 - + the quality of management, curriculum and staff development of ESF schools;
 - + strategic planning; and
 - + policy formulation and implementation Foundation wide.

You will have:

- + educational vision and awareness;
- + proven leadership of a large successful school;
- + experience of a wider role in management, curriculum and staff development;
- + ability to command respect and confidence of principals and staff of successful schools;
- + a high level of communication skills; and
- + international school experience (desirable).

Further details available from Jennifer Wisker, The Secretary and Chief Executive, The English Schools Foundation, 250 Victoria Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong. (Fax: (852) 2834-6881).
Closing date for applications 26 January 1996.

SEDBERGH SCHOOL

Appointment of
BURSAR

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar on the retirement of Mr. J. G. Joyce. The position will become vacant not more later than the 1st September 1996.

Further details can be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Governors,
Sedburgh School,
Sedburgh,
Cumbria LA10 5RY

Sedburgh is a Registered Charity dedicated to Education: Number 529899

MALVERN COLLEGE

Worcestershire

A Co-educational Boarding and Day School

The Council of Malvern College invites applications for the post of

HEAD

The Council is seeking an outstanding person to succeed Mr Roy Chapman who retires in August, 1997.

Enquiries and applications should be addressed to the Chairman of the Council, Malvern College, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3DF.
The closing date for applications is 3rd February, 1996.
Registered Charity No. 32728

All Box number replies should be addressed to:

BOX No. —
C/o The Times
Newspapers
P.O. BOX 3553,
Virginia Street,
London E1 9GA

**WOODHOUSE GROVE
APPERLEY BRIDGE
NR BRADFORD
WEST YORKSHIRE**

HMC
approx 780, co-educational, 3-18, boarding & day

HEAD

Required for September 1996 or as soon thereafter as possible to succeed Mr David Welsh MA upon his appointment as Principal of the Dens Hall School Foundation.

The School is committed to providing a broad education on Christian principles and is administered by the Board of Management for Methodist Residential Schools. Full details of the appointment may be obtained from:

The Secretary, Methodist Colleges & Schools
25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JP.
Telephone 0171 936 3723.

The closing date for applications is 12 February 1996. Woodhouse Grove School is a registered charity providing education for children.

ABBNEY TUTORIAL COLLEGE

BIRMINGHAM
All Subjects
0121 236 7474

CAMBRIDGE
Maths & Sciences
01223 328686

LONDON
Maths & Sciences
0171 229 5928

MANCHESTER
All Subjects
0161 236 6836

**A Level & GCSE
EASTER REVISION**
Accommodation available

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

YARM SCHOOL
Cleveland

BURSAR

Yarm School is an independent HMC day school. The Prep and Pre-Prep 230 boys aged 5-10 and Senior School 500 boys aged 11-18 and Sixth Form Girls.

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar to succeed Mr F Goodwin, BA FCA who retires at the end of the school year.

Candidates will be expected to have proven senior experience in finance and administration and should be fully conversant with accounting methods involving information technology.

Details, including job description, are available from The Clerk to the Governors, Yarm School, The Priory, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 9EJ.

The closing date for applications is 15th February 1996

Yarm School is a registered charity for the purposes of providing education. No 507290.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Durham

Bursar of College of St Hild & St Bede

£22,000 - £28,000 pa

An energetic and innovative manager is required for this senior level College post, responsible to the Principal for the management of finance, staff and buildings, including the vacation trade.

The successful candidate, who will have excellent managerial, financial and interpersonal skills, will be expected to assist in planning and fund-raising, and play a key role in the further development of an effective and responsive service to students and commercial customers. Experience of managing a large catering and residential establishment would be advantageous.

The appointment is tenable from the earliest possible date.

For informal discussion of the post, please contact Dr Vernon Arncliffe, Principal of the College of St Hild & St Bede, on 0191 374 3080.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 1SP.
(tel: 0191 374 7258, fax: 0191 374 7253 or e-mail: Acad.Recruit@durham.ac.uk).

Closing date: 9 February 1996. Please quote reference A518.

Investing in Excellence in Teaching and Research.

COURSES

RESIDENT MATRON

required for this co-educational independent boarding school, situated in countryside near Horsham, West Sussex. Nursing qualifications are not a pre requisite but common sense plus a sense of humour are essential. You will be expected to carry out an important pastoral role within the boarding house working closely with the housemaster or mistress.

For further information and an application form, please ring Mrs L J Newton at Christ's Hospital on 01403 211293.

We are a registered charity giving education with care.

HOME STUDY FOR EVERYONE EVERYWHERE.

The Rapid Results College offers professional, GCSE, A-Level and leisure courses with tutor support. Phone Dept HE309 for a free prospectus.

RRC 0181 947 7272

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

PAUL H. NITZE SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

SAIS

English as a Second Language and American Studies Program

June 17 - July 26

Experience the excitement of learning English in the heart of Washington, DC

- Six-week comprehensive program
- Seminars in American Studies
- Excursions to Capitol Hill and other sites of interest
- Small classes with distinguished faculty
- Instructional facilities
- Foreign language
- Study in the Nation's Capital

For information contact:
Office of Summer Programs, SAIS
1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036 U.S.A.
Phone: 202.663.5713 Fax: 202.663.5615
E-Mail: sumprog@mail.jhu.edu

SECONDARY SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR

An exciting opportunity exists for an experienced and effective educator in CAFOD's Formal Education Section. Working in a small team you will jointly be responsible for development education in schools, colleges, universities and seminaries, to deepen an understanding of the issues behind the causes of poverty and injustice in the Third World.

With at least three-five years teaching experience, you will have a background in RE and be familiar with the National RE Project and GCSE RE Programmes, have excellent communication skills, be able to facilitate learning in an experiential and participative way and have a real and intimate knowledge of church life and Catholic Social Teaching.

Salary is in the range of £19,555 - £22,305 per annum, depending on skills and experience.

For a full job description and application form, please send A4 SAE (47p), quoting ref: SSCO, to: Home Division Administration, CAFOD, Romero Close, Stockwell Road, London SW9 9TY, or fax 0171 274 9680.

Closing date: 9 February 1996.
1st interviews: 21 February, 2nd interviews: 29 February.

CAFOD is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church, funding over 1000 projects in 76 countries.

CAFOD
On the side of people in need

London Electronic Arts

VIDEO & MEDIA TRAINING

Regular weekend courses from £85

Video Production
2-Machine Editing
3-machine Editing
Non Linear Editing
Multi-Media

For Free Course Brochure & Production Facilities
Tel 0171 284 4323

LEA
8-7 BUCK ST
CAMDEN
NW1 3NJ

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED CHIROPODY AS A REDUNDANCY PROOF PROFESSION?

Worried about your future or wanting a change? You can qualify for a rewarding career as a Chiropractor/Podiatrist in the much sought after private sector. You study in your spare time without first leaving your current job and complete your practical training during your holidays. AGE IS NO BARRIER.

- We have successfully trained continuously for 77 years since 1919 in the private sector where we are much respected. There is no other body able to match our success rate or methods.
- THE COST? Not expensive for a new career which earns you an excellent life style and respect.
- Upon qualifying you will be eligible to join the largest and most respected professional body in the private sector. THE BRITISH CHIROPODY & PODIATRY ASSOCIATION. See Yellow Pages.
- We also run full-time courses.
- You may be eligible for a grant.

Write or telephone now for FREE Prospectus to:
THE SCHOOL OF CHIROPODY & PODIATRIC MEDICINE
The SMAE Institute, (1919)
Dept. IT, The New Hall,
149 Beth Road, Morden, Barts S16 4LA.
(01628) 21100 (24hrs) or 32449 (9am - 5pm only)

HURON UNIVERSITY
USA IN LONDON

ACCREDITED US DEGREE COURSES
COMMENCE JANUARY 1996

Call / Fax now for Brochure & Campus Tour

- MBA - Full/part-time, and 'fast track' Executive (weekend) programmes
- BLS - Business (areas of concentration include International Business) and Computer Information Systems
- B.A. - Art, Humanities, International Relations
- Diploma & Certificate in Management Studies (full/part-time)
- Chartered Institute of Banking/Marketing (Intensive, UK and abroad, all disciplines)

Admissions Office, 58 Princes Gate, London SW7 2PE.
TEL: 0171-581 4399/0171-584 9596 FAX: 0171-589 9106

Meet the growing need for Counselling Skills

CSCST is Europe's largest independent counselling training organisation. All of our courses are validated by the Associated Examining Board.

Courses start on 29th January.

To find out more about CSCST training for counselling call freephone 0800 243 463 or write to the address below.

Centre of Studies of Counselling & Therapy Limited
19-29 Chiswick Green Road, London W2 9LH
Telephone: 0800 243 463. Open 9am to 5pm
The CORPORATE SERVICE GROUP PLC

FRENCH 'A' LEVEL REVISION IN BORDEAUX

Half term, Easter & Summer courses

Thought in small groups courses are geared to the specific needs of 'A' level students. Exam techniques, written, grammar and oral.

For full details contact:
Challenge Educational Services
101 Leinster Road, Hove,
Sussex BN1 9SL
Tel: 01273 828551

FREELANCE JOURNALISM COURSE

Study from home and make writing a new career or profitable second income.

Free 0800 371 500
MORRIS
COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

LECTURESHIPS

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Lecturer Grade A

The Faculty of Law wishes to appoint a lecturer Grade A to start from September 1996. The person appointed will be expected to contribute to teaching in LLB and/or LLM courses, to make a strong commitment to research and publication, and to play a part in pastoral and administrative activities in the Department.

Our needs lie particularly in the fields of English law, European Community law, Public International law, International Trade, and Information Technology and the Law.

The appointment will be made on the lecturer scale, salary in the range £18,164 - £18,848 plus London allowance of £2,134 according to qualifications and experience.

Informal inquiries may be made to Professor Dawn Oliver (tel: 0171 591 1410 or e-mail: d.oliver@ucl.ac.uk).

Please send letter of application together with a cv and the names of three referees to: Professor Oliver, Faculty of Law, UCL, Beetham House, Endsleigh Gardens, WC1H 0EG by 2nd February 1996.

Working towards Equal Opportunity
PURSuing EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

EASTER REVISION

FOR HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Choose a **CIFE** College

Also EASTER REVISION

LONDON		
Croydon	Cambridge Tutors	0181 688 5284
Hendon	Albany	0181 202 5965
Holborn	Davies's	0171 430 1622
Kensal Green	Bales	0181 960 5899
Kensington	Ashbourne	0171 937 3858
Kensington	Collingham	0171 244 7414
Kensington	Lansdowne	0171 581 3307
Kensington	MPW	0171 584 8555
REGIONAL		
Birmingham	MPW	0121 454 9637
Bristol	MPW	0117 925 5688
Cambridge	CCS	01223 316890
Cambridge	MPW	01223 350 158
Harrogate	Harrogate Tutorial	01423 501041
Hove	Bellerby's	01273 723911
Market Harborough	Brooke House	01858 462452
Oxford	Cheerwell	01865 242670
Oxford	Modes	01865 245172
Oxford	Oxford Tutorial	01865 793333
Rochester	Rochester Tutors	01634 828115

THE PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE OF INDEPENDENT SENIOR TUTORING COLLEGES

TAKE THE STRAIN OUT OF 'A' LEVEL & GCSE REVISION

JUSTIN CRAIG EDUCATION

AN INTENSIVE REVISION COURSE DURING THE SCHOOL EASTER HOLIDAY IS THE ONLY ANSWER

Motivation & Confidence Booster
Key Topics & Past Papers Studied
Small Class Groups for All Subjects
Enthusiastic Tutors & Examiners
5/10 Days Residential or Daily

**COURSES IN: WARE - HERTFORD - NW LONDON
BIRMINGHAM - YORK - HARROGATE - HICKMANSWORTH**

Guaranteed pass grades or a free re-take course
01727 827000

JUSTIN CRAIG EDUCATION, Craig House, Dept 2
13 High St, Colney Heath, Herts, AL4 0NS

EASTER REVISION with the CHIEF EXAMINERS!

21st

To find out more about our intensive Easter Revision & one & two year Courses, phone:
0171-581 3307

LANSDOWNE
INDEPENDENT NORTH WEST COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
79-79a Bury Road, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 9JG

Oxford Easter Courses

Non profit-making educational courses

1ST/2ND YEAR A LEVEL REVISION

Conventional or Modular Syllabus
Fully Residential at St Hilda's College
March 20th-April 6th and April 9th-April 14th
High quality courses run by an ex-A level candidate for A level students only. Full board, single rooms, specialist tutors.

Tel: (01865) 811617 (24 hrs)
98 Southam Road, Oxford, OX2 9EE

A Level, GCSE, A/S Levels, 1 year, 2 year & Resit Courses

Easter Revision

Ashbourne Independent Sixth Form College
17 Old Court Place, London W6 4PL. 0171-487 8558

CIFE
Ashbourne

DAVIES'S

One Week Courses

- A level and GCSE
- Lower VI and Upper V
- Half & Full day cov
- Accommodation

To reserve
0171 727 2797

10 Pembridge Square, London W2 4ED

صلى الله عليه وسلم

EDUCATION

Why loans are going wrong

Students are going to have to pay more towards their education, says Eric Ash

As Bernard Shaw discovered, "a higher education is useful in that it enables you to despise the wealth it prevents you from attaining". Even so, there is wide agreement — embracing all flavours of political conviction — that maintaining the expansion of higher education which has taken place over the past two decades is vital for the future prosperity of Britain.

The problem is cost. The public provision which seemed affordable when fewer than 10 per cent of the age group participated in higher education plainly is not at the 30 per cent level we have now reached.

Until 1990, when student loans were introduced, both tuition fees and maintenance grants — for full-time students — were a charge on the Exchequer. Since the benefits of receiving a higher education flow both to society and to the individual, it seems reasonable that the costs also should be shared — that the individual graduate should make some contribution.

There has been much debate as to whether the student's contribution should be towards maintenance or towards tuition costs. It has been argued that if the latter were adopted, the universities would win a greater measure of independence from government.

I believe that hope to be illusory. As long as government bears the major costs of a higher education institution, it will be able to call the tune. If government gets it wrong — and the relentless squeeze on university finance is an all-too-clear example — there is no short cut to persuasion by political process. Universities can obtain a measure of independence only to the extent that they can earn income from non-governmental sources.

The loans which are administered by the Student Loans Company have been increased as the mandatory grant for students has been reduced. By next year, the loans will amount to half the provision. The scale of the operation is massive — loans in the current academic year will amount to £800 million.

The machinery has worked well — with one much publicised exception, when last year a scheme, designed to streamline loans for students who were already in receipt of a loan, ran into difficulties. While 93 per cent of the students received their loans in good time, the other 7 per cent suffered serious delays. That 7 per cent amounts to 35,000 students — about 60 literate and justifiably angry people per MP.

It was a very audible error. The record up to that time had been



excellent and happily, in the current year, all has again worked smoothly. Nor is there any serious problem with collecting loan repayments. Presently, 93.5 per cent of repayments due have been collected. The prediction for the longer run is that this figure will rise to 97 per cent.

It has been suggested that a better way of collecting repayments might be via National Insurance or taxation. A scheme based on this option is being successfully run in Australia. However, detailed studies have shown that the differences — if any — in collection costs or default rate are too close to call.

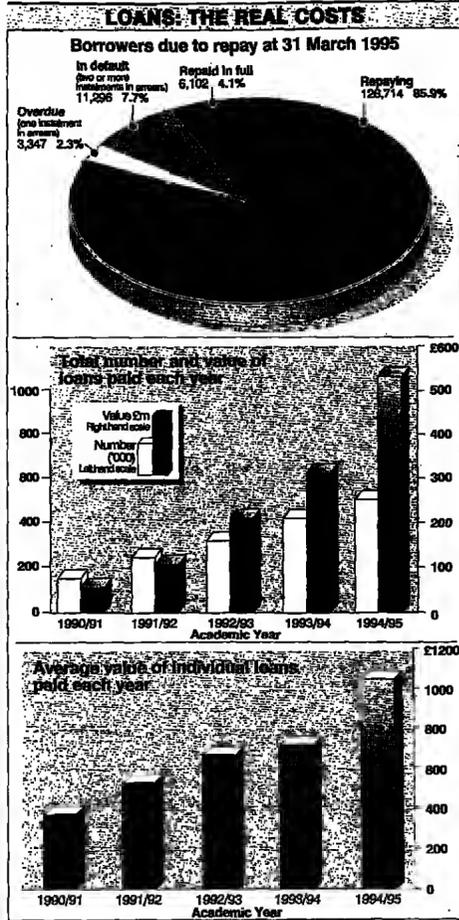
The terms on which the loans are given are benign. They are indexed for inflation but the real interest charge is zero. Repayment starts in April in the year after graduation and is completed in five years.

The repayments can be deferred indefinitely if the borrower has an

income of less than £15,200. The most onerous repayment rate, which could apply to any participant in the scheme, works out at 4 per cent of gross pay — the average being much less. It is difficult to believe that anyone could possibly regard them as a serious obstacle to embarking on higher education.

Y et all is not well with the loan scheme. The biggest problem is that it is slow to provide relief for the taxpayer. It is inevitable that in any scheme of this kind it will take some years before the repayments approach the rate of lending. So far, with the scheme in its sixth year, the annual repayments amount to only about 6 per cent of the loans.

If nothing is changed it will take until 2002 — beyond the next election but one — before the repayments in any year amount to



one half of the loans made in that year. A second problem stems from the fixed repayment period. If students were in future to be asked to carry a greater portion of the maintenance costs — a development not inconceivable, irrespective of the outcome of the next election — the repayments might begin to deter.

Both problems stem from the concept of zero real interest rate. Zero interest is another word for money. It means that a part of the transaction is really a grant rather than a loan. It is a blurring of meaning which is defensible during the period of study; it has nothing going for it during the period of repayment. A commercial rate of interest would remove the need for rapid repayment of loans, which could be on an income-related formula, and it would provide relief for the taxpayer.

Even faster relief could be won if

it were possible to transfer some or all of the loans to private financial institutions. A recent attempt by the Government to do that had to be postponed for lack of fervour on the part of the banks.

The scheme would have involved up to four financial institutions, the Student Loans Company and a sixth player — the holder of a database to co-ordinate the transactions. The complexity of this scheme may have militated against early implementation.

A simpler approach which adapts rather than seeks to replace the present system might yet prove persuasive to financial institutions and to a future government. Arithmetic gives the same answers irrespective of who asks the questions.

● Sir Eric Ash was acting chief executive of the Student Loans Company throughout 1995. The above represents his personal views.

At the very heart of Europe

David Tyler on a school where pupils see themselves as Europeans

Whisper it quietly in the company of Euro-sceptics, but a new order has arrived. And it seems to work.

The 3,500 pupils aged from four to 18, and taught by 400 staff from every country of the European Union, generally get on well together in the European School in Brussels. They get good results in the European Baccalaureate with most going on to higher education, often in a country other than their own.

The Brussels school, founded in 1958, is one of nine in eight countries, including Britain, set up by the EU to teach the sons and daughters of its officials. Their education is provided free but at considerable cost: the Brussels school alone costs about £30 million a year, although it does admit a small number of pupils who pay £1,200 a year.

The first European school was founded in Luxembourg in 1957. All take as their starting point the words of Jean Monnet which are sealed into the foundations of each school: "Educated side by side, untroubled from infancy by divisive prejudices, acquainted with all that is great and good in the different cultures, it will be borne in upon them as they mature that they belong together..."

At the heart of each school is the emphasis on language. Lessons are taught in all nine official EU languages — Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Many lessons are taught in the mother tongue with Irish available for the children of Irish officials. The uniqueness of the school lies in its approach to learning a foreign language.

The study of a first foreign language — English, French or German — is compulsory from six. A second is added at 12, with an optional third language available from 14. The pupils' skill is humbling: a playground conversation can switch from language to language without hesitation.

Language classes are taught by a native speaker in mixed nationality groups and a weekly European hour in the primary school brings together children from all nations in cultural, artistic and sporting activities. It is almost a statement of the obvious when John Marshall, the English head of the school, says: "The language work they do here bears no resemblance

to what they do in the UK." Once in the secondary school, art, music and sport are all taught in mixed nationalities. From 13, history and geography are taught in the pupils' first foreign language. But as one English parent said, it is often the case of pupils learning to swim or they will sink in a school that is only now beginning to recognise the need for structured pastoral care.

The emphasis is on success, with pupils being kept down a year if they fail the school's annual exams. Mr Marshall says that the system concentrates the mind and that the sanction is rarely imposed twice. He accepts, though, that life can be difficult for pupils entering the secondary classes, not least because of the language skills of their classmates.

He says: "We do give extra time in special classes and parents also know they may have to give extra lessons. But they have confidence in their ability to learn and most learn very quickly. Children know they will be expected to perform. They know they get a good deal and by and large perform better than the average."

Perhaps for the Euro-sceptics in England, the most controversial aspect of the school is its approach to history, but Mr Marshall makes no apology for teaching the subject to all pupils in a foreign language. He says: "The idea is that you become more objective about your own country and outward-looking towards others."

"Pupils no longer learn national history but European history, which they are taught by people who may not share their own views, sitting alongside children whose own views may be challenged and who will challenge the views of others. They will receive a much more complete education than anybody else."

This objectivity is vital for Mr Marshall, who fears that many in Britain are being brought up in an anti-European atmosphere unable to make rational judgments for themselves. While insisting that it is not his job to instill values and views, Mr Marshall cannot resist expressing his own hopes: "I would not have missed this opportunity for the world. Having taught here, you really believe that Europe has a future and hope that the pupils' experience will help to spread European values."

Lessons are taught in all nine official EU languages

Girls at a London school are enjoying the benefits of a superhighway education, reports David Charter

Switched on and learning

Bushra Mazhar has no doubt that getting connected to the Internet is a worthwhile investment for schools. The 15-year-old from Walthamstow School for Girls sent an e-mail to the managing director of ICL, the computer firm, after meeting him at an Internet conference, asking for work experience. He agreed.

Bushra manages the Internet link at the school which has been online for several years, and is seen as a pioneer of superhighway possibilities. The enthusiasm of the girls — they have a conferencing arrangement with other schools called Girls' Issues — shows the male-dominated image many have of the Internet is pure myth.

Bushra said: "I want the Internet to be a major part of my future life. There is a lot of

sexism about computers generally but anyone can use it if they have the skills."

The usefulness of the Internet for coursework ranges from images of the growth and development of tadpoles to information in French on social trends provided by a Canadian source. Providers of the Internet to schools ensure undesirable material is blocked.

Jean Johnson, head of IT at the school, says the girls clamour to use the single computer linked to the Internet, and they communicate regularly with schools in Sweden and Finland.

She says: "It is a fantastic

medium. They just become incredibly confident not just in the use of computers but in day-to-day life and their contacts with other people. It has brought the whole world of telecommunications to a level which the girls can deal with and they are having quite adult debates."

However, the National Council for Educational Technology (NCET) advises schools to avoid a commitment to the Internet if there is no staff member with a burning interest in the technology. It says that more than 2,000 schools and colleges have a connection, mostly through the main two providers, BT

and RM. Roger Blamire, manager of superhighway projects at NCET, says: "It depends where the school is in its development plan and whether it has the interest of staff to take the initial thrust. There is no point in forcing it on them."

"We suggest getting someone in the school to have a watching brief, possibly by giving them a machine at home, so the enthusiasm becomes grassroots."

He added: "Despite all the hype for the Internet it is actually quite slow and does not really have much dedicated material on it for schools. It is for the tolerant and confident user at the moment."

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, this week set up a project to look into the benefits of the Internet, which will run alongside its broader investigation into superhighways, including video-conferencing.

The Government's belief in the future role of the Internet was shown by another announcement by Mr Squire that the Education Department was funding a "Virtual languages" centre, bringing together material from Europe, Canada and Japan.

However, schools thinking of setting up their own link are advised to consider the financial implications, even of a single modem link, which has

forced Walthamstow to limit the time girls can spend on the computer. Even although it is moving to a local telephone link, the cost of several-hour-long local calls soon adds up.

The Labour Party has pledged that every school will have access to the Internet, which may encourage some wary schools to wait before committing themselves to the information technology revolution.

One thing is certain from Walthamstow's experience — the Internet brings all sorts of benefits and changes to the classroom. Mrs Johnson says: "I think it is more than acceptable for a girl to sit down and teach a teacher how to do it and it is extremely good for their self-esteem. There will always be students who are better than staff."

The sour aftertaste of cherry-picking

How selection of pupils at 11 can have a domino effect on other schools

Parental protests and accusations of social engineering have followed the rush by schools in a corner of north London to select pupils of special ability, David Charter writes.

The Barnet area is two years down the road of an experiment in selection of the kind made easier this week by Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary.

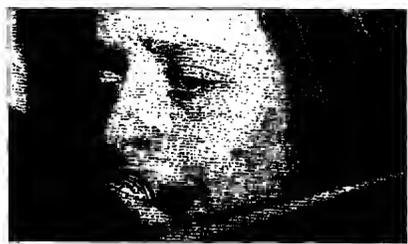
Mrs Shephard proposes to scrap the ban on comprehensive schools interviewing pupils and their parents to increase the limit on the number of children admitted on a test of ability from 10 to 15 per cent.

Pupils in Barnet already face a battery of tests for the most popular schools because one school after another has moved towards greater selectivity. Change in admissions policy has been swift. Head

teachers and governors were anxious not to be left behind, fearing that those which resist would end up as sink schools for the pupils nobody else wanted.

Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School went fully selective last September, to match the single-sex grammar education offered to girls at The Henrietta Barnet School. Other schools have followed, using the freedom of grant-maintained status, despite an outcry from parents.

Dame Alice Owen School in nearby Ponders Bar now selects nearly half its pupils through testing, with a further 10 per cent on musical or sporting ability. Hendon School, which takes 10 per cent of pupils on musical ability, won government approval in November



Kenzie Barker, a music student at Hendon School

to test all applicants and give a quarter of its places to bright pupils, half to those of middle ability and a quarter to low ability. The first tests take place at the weekend for 450 children competing for 200 places.

Bob Lloyd, Hendon School head teacher, said: "We decided the only way to maintain a comprehensive intake was to introduce a means of testing all the pupils and to admit them in proportion to a normal distribution of ability."

He said the actions of neighbouring schools left Hendon with no choice. Mill Hill County High School, which is grant-maintained, takes 10 per cent on musical ability and has applied to take 30 per cent more on aptitude for technology.

Mr Lloyd added: "If we did not do this we would end up as a secondary modern school. Schools must realise it is no good sitting back watching others take your most able pupils."

Barnet council, fearing the brightest pupils are being siphoned off, has formed a working party of head teachers, including some from grant-maintained schools, to see if it can somehow change admissions policies to retain a full academic and social mix at

the nine local authority comprehensives.

Anne Jarvis, Barnet's chairwoman of education, said: "Effective planning has been sabotaged and you end up with schools which already have a lower proportion of able pupils being put on a downward slide."

Jenny Brown, a member of a parents' protest group, said: "Parents are increasingly worried their child might not be what the school wants."

She added: "Because of these moves by Mill Hill County High, other schools in the borough have panicked and we are now facing a domino effect."

Martin Darnell, chairman of governors at Mill Hill, said: "We are doing this to remain comprehensive. There is no doubt the top end of our intake has been affected by other schools selecting."

The best guide to graduate study

Higher Education in the UK: Graduate Courses 1996-97

Higher graduate courses

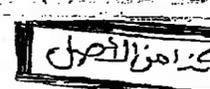
Now in its second edition, Graduate Courses 1996-97 is available now. Compiled and up dated using information supplied by the higher education institutions to their own controlling bodies, making it the most comprehensive guide available for students.

Direct orders to: Pitman Publishing, Marketing Department (Yearbooks), 128 Long Acree, London WC2E 9AN or fax your order on 0171 240 5771

Save time order by telephone on 0171 373 7383 quoting reference YA605

ISBN 1 852071 22 1: A4 Format 52c plus 52c p&h

PITMAN PUBLISHING



Court of Appeal

Insurable interest in property

Court cannot accept undertaking

Glenage-KG Properties Ltd v Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Iain Glidewell (Judgment December 21)

The phrase "the interest in the property" in a material damage provision in a consequential loss insurance policy did not cover an insurable interest which was not a personal property interest of the insured.

The Court of Appeal was split 2-1 in favour of the insured (Sir Iain Glidewell dissenting), when, inter alia, dismissing an appeal by the first defendants, the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd, from the decision of Mr Justice Phillips made on July 7, 1994 and revised on February 2, 1995.

The action had been brought by the plaintiffs, Glenage-KG Properties Ltd, against Norwich Union, the second defendants, Scottish Union and National Insurance Co, who had been dismissed by the judge from the action, and the third defendants, Lowndes Lambert UK Ltd, who were the brokers.

In March 1985 the plaintiffs purchased the former Bourne & Hollingsworth department store building in Oxford Street, London, for redevelopment into a complex of offices and retail outlets to be known as the Plaza.

The plaintiffs took out a consequential loss insurance policy with the first defendants which stipulated that "if any building or other property or any part thereof used by the insured at the premises described in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of the business suffers damage other than by an excluded cause [it would] pay to the insured the amount of loss resulting from interruption of or interference with the business carried on by the insured at the premises in consequence of the damage..."

In the appendix to the policy the item insured was defined as being the anticipated rent which was stated to be £100,000. The maximum indemnity period was stated to be 36 months.

The insurance effected by the consequential loss policy was, however, subject to the proviso that "at the time of the happening of the damage there shall be in force... an insurance covering the interest of the insured in the property at the premises against such damage..."

The plaintiffs wished the development to proceed with as little delay as possible. It was therefore agreed that a temporary office should be established on the first floor of the redevelopment which could be used as a team base by the architects, Archer, Bomer and Partners, as well as by the other professional advisers who were involved.

In September 1985 a serious fire broke out at the site and in the vast majority of the drawings in the architects' office at the team base were destroyed, as was much of the temporary office itself. The destruction of the architects' drawings led to inevitable delay which the plaintiffs asserted resulted in a substantial loss of rental income.

Following the fire it came to light that although the architects had insured their drawing boards and other equipment, the work in progress had not been insured allegedly due to an oversight by the broker instructed by the architects. The plaintiffs made a claim against the first defendants under the consequential loss policy. The claim was disputed and the plaintiffs brought proceedings.

Mr Roger Ter Haar, QC and Mr James Holdsworth for the first defendants; Mr Charles Falconer, QC and Mr Andrew Moran for the plaintiffs; Mr Jeremy Cooke, QC and Mr Dominic Kendrick for the third defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the most difficult question in the case was whether the plaintiffs had "an interest" in the architects' drawings within the meaning of the proviso in the consequential loss policy. The judge had held that they did not.

It was argued in support of the appeal that in the context the word "interest" in the proviso meant an insurable interest and that the plaintiffs clearly had an insurable interest in the architects' drawings. His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was right. In the course of the hearing the court had been referred to a number of cases which demonstrated that a person might have an "insurable interest" in property even though he was not the owner. Persons having such an insurable interest included persons having a contractual licence to use property and pledges.

But those cases and others clearly showed that the word "interest" in the context of insurance law had more than one meaning. It could mean any "insurable interest" in the wide sense used by Mr Justice Lawrence in *Lucena v Craufurd* (1806) 2 B & P 269, 302.

But it could also mean an insurable interest of a more limited kind. It depended on the context. In the present case the judge came to the conclusion that as the architects' drawings were not property in which the plaintiffs had a personal interest the proviso did not apply.

Mr Anthony Colman, QC, was correct when in his judgment in *The Mionette* [1993] 3 Lloyd's Rep 501 he said that *Anderson v Morice* [1875] LR 10 CP 609; (1876) 1 App Cas 713, a sale of goods case, fell into that category of case in which the assured's relation to the goods was not such as to confer on him a sufficient certainty of benefit from their preservation or to impose upon him any certain exposure to the risk of liability in respect of their loss.

But the position would be different if at the time of the loss the insured already had rights in respect of the insured goods which might be affected if the goods were lost or damaged. In the event of such loss or damage he might lose the profits from a forward sale for which a contract had already been made.

He could insure against that loss of profits if he had rights in existence at the time of the loss of the goods, and it could be said that he had an insurable interest in the goods in the wider sense explained by Mr Justice Lawrence in *Lucena*.

But in his Lordship's view, the right to insure against the loss of profits did not mean that the buyer had an "interest in the property" in the sense contemplated by the material damage proviso.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that in the context the reference to "interest" in the proviso was a reference to an interest in the narrower sense. The plaintiffs had no such interest in the architects' drawings, even though they might have a licence to use the designs and might one day have acquired the property in the drawings.

At the time of the fire the drawings were the property of the architects and in his Lordship's judgment it was the architects' responsibility to replace them if destroyed. The plaintiffs were under no obligation to insure the architects' drawings themselves.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL, dissenting, said that it was a fundamental principle of insurance law that a person who had no personal property interest might nevertheless have an insurable interest in property. Indeed he must have such an interest to be entitled to insure the property. The definition given by Mr Justice Lawrence in *Lucena* included but

was wider than a personal property interest.

The issue for the court's decision was whether "the interest of the insured in the property" within the proviso included an interest which was not a personal property interest. In disagreement with Lord Justice Neill, his Lordship could see no reason why it should not.

The phrase in its context in a policy of insurance covered whatever interest the insured had, including an insurable interest which was not a personal interest. His Lordship did not find that the authorities cited to the court on that issue led to a contrary conclusion, or indeed were of much assistance.

The plaintiffs clearly had an interest in the architects' drawings. They therefore had an insurable interest in the drawings and could themselves have insured the drawings.

Alternatively, they could have required the architects themselves to take out such insurance, which would have satisfied the proviso. In the absence of any such insurance, however, it was his Lordship's judgment that the proviso applied and was not satisfied.

LORD JUSTICE AULD delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Neill.

Solicitors: Greenwoods; Berwin Leighton; Cameron Markby Hewit.

in re B (a Minor) (Supervision order: Parental undertakings)

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Bennett (Judgment December 21)

County courts had no jurisdiction to accept undertakings from the parent of a child who was the subject of an application for a supervision order made under section 21 of the Children Act 1989.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the guardian and a local authority from the decision of Judge Goldson sitting in Watford County Court on May 18, 1995 whereby he made a supervision order in respect of a child on certain undertakings given by the mother.

The local authority had applied for a care order in respect of the child pursuant to section 31 of the 1989 Act with a care plan which proposed the removal of the child from the care of his mother for placement with short term foster parents and subsequent placement with long term foster parents with or without the possibility of adoption.

The judge was satisfied that the child was likely to suffer significant harm if no order were made under section 31 but decided that he should make a supervision order rather than a care order. He ordered the local authority to

supervise the child for 12 months and directed that certain conditions be attached to the order.

The supervision order also contained the undertaking of the mother (i) to take the child to his school on time and to notify the school of any absence, (ii) to seek such treatment as might be recommended to her by the psychiatrist or medical unit at her local general hospital or such other hospital as might be recommended by her general practitioner, and (iii) to authorise the doctor to provide the local authority with details of her treatment and recommended treatment of one senior social worker.

Miss Elizabeth Ann Gumbel for the guardian and the local authority; Mr William Holland for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that it was submitted by Miss Gumbel that the judge had no power to make a supervision order in the terms of the order of May 18, 1995 and that in any event the judge was wrong to make a supervision order on the evidence before the court.

Miss Gumbel's principal submission was that the judge was not entitled to accept undertakings from the mother, even though she was quite willing to give them. The supervision order was therefore defective in that respect.

Miss Gumbel had other criticisms of the form of the supervision order. She pointed out, quite rightly, that a requirement to submit to any medical or psychiatric examination as directed by the supervisor could only be made in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 and could not be made under paragraph 2.

In those circumstances his Lordship was satisfied that the supervision order could not stand in its present form. Accordingly, it was necessary to consider Miss Gumbel's further arguments.

She submitted that the essential parts of the judge's order and that it was impossible to say whether, had the judge realised he could not accept the undertakings, he would have made a supervision order at all.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion, however, that on a fair reading of the judge's judgment he had ruled out of consideration, as plainly not being in the child's interest, his removal from the mother. It was quite clear that the judge thought and indeed found that it would be wholly contrary to

that a consequence of a breach of an undertaking might be imprisonment for contempt.

It was therefore clear that for the purposes of enforcement an undertaking stood on an equal footing with an injunction. It was also to be remembered that a county court had no inherent jurisdiction to grant an injunction to protect children: see *D v D (Child case: Powers of court)* [1994] 3 FCR 29 and *In re S and D (Children: Powers of court)* [1995] 2 FCR 456.

It followed therefore that, as a county court had no inherent jurisdiction to grant injunctions, it could have no inherent jurisdiction to accept undertakings in care proceedings.

Nor could a county court accept undertakings as part of a supervision order. Part 1 of Schedule 3 made no provision for undertakings. As Lord Justice Waite had explained in *In re V (Minor)* (unreported, June 13, 1994) the only sanction for an infringement of the terms of a supervision order was that it enabled the supervisor to return to the court.

His Lordship was therefore satisfied that Miss Gumbel was right. The judge was not entitled to accept undertakings from the mother, even though she was quite willing to give them. The supervision order was therefore defective in that respect.

Miss Gumbel had other criticisms of the form of the supervision order. She pointed out, quite rightly, that a requirement to submit to any medical or psychiatric examination as directed by the supervisor could only be made in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 and could not be made under paragraph 2.

In those circumstances his Lordship was satisfied that the supervision order could not stand in its present form. Accordingly, it was necessary to consider Miss Gumbel's further arguments.

She submitted that the essential parts of the judge's order and that it was impossible to say whether, had the judge realised he could not accept the undertakings, he would have made a supervision order at all.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion, however, that on a fair reading of the judge's judgment he had ruled out of consideration, as plainly not being in the child's interest, his removal from the mother. It was quite clear that the judge thought and indeed found that it would be wholly contrary to

the child's best interest for the care plan to be implemented.

The scales had not just tipped in favour of a supervision order but had come down completely against a care order. It was to be noted that the judge found that the risk of damage to the child under a care order far outweighed the risks that would be taken by making a supervision order.

His Lordship was accordingly satisfied that, had the judge had pointed out to him, which it was not, that he was not empowered to accept undertakings, nevertheless he would have made a supervision order albeit taking into account the mother's agreement to undergo medical treatment.

His Lordship therefore turned to Miss Gumbel's other main submission, namely, that in any event the judge was plainly wrong because his findings were wholly against the weight of the evidence. His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was entitled to find that the mother's rather fragile stability had been upset by the legal proceedings and that she had been subjected to major stress.

The supervision order would have to be looked at again in a few months time. His Lordship did not find it possible to say, however, that the making of the supervision order was plainly wrong, nor was the case one where the court should have looked at the judge's decision on any other ground. Nevertheless the supervision order must be amended.

It seemed to his Lordship that at present it would be right that the mother's agreement to seek medical treatment should be recorded in a proforma in the supervision order so that if the mother failed to honour her agreement that failure could be brought to the attention of the court in due course. It would also be appropriate to record her further agreement to authorise her physician to provide the local authority with details of her treatment. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Mr Justice Bennett agreed.

Solicitors: Matthew Arnold & Baldwin; Watford: M. W. J. Church; Hereford: Pollards, Boreham, Herford.

Pay now sue later clause is valid

Marchant and Elliot Underwriting Ltd v Higgins

The "pay now, sue later" clause in the standard agency agreement between a Lloyd's name and his managing agents was valid and did not breach article 85 of the Treaty of Rome.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Roch) so held in a reserved judgment on December 21 dismissing the appeal of Dr Andrew Higgins against the decision of Mr Justice Rix on October 24, 1995, giving summary judgment for the plaintiffs, Marchant and Elliot Underwriting Ltd, in the sum of £6,000 with costs for their claim in respect of cash calls on the defendant in respect of the 1990 and 1991 accounts.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the action was to enforce a name's obligation to make funds available to his managing agent so as to enable valid claims to be met on policies that he had underwritten. That did not involve the carrying out of an unlawful agreement or the implementation of an unlawful arrangement. The obligation to pay debts was as old as commerce.

The court did not see how competition between agents could affect trade between EU member states. Managing agents at Lloyd's were in competition with each other but not, in relation to those they represented, with agents outside Lloyd's.

Without some form of pay now, sue later obligation, Lloyd's could not function. If the defendant were to succeed it would destroy the ability of Lloyd's to provide insurance and would destroy Lloyd's itself.

His Lordship's judgment, an undertaking was a promise to the court which was capable of being enforced by the court by way of proceedings for contempt if the undertaking was broken. The punishment for contempt might include a sentence of imprisonment or a fine.

The judge was satisfied that the child was likely to suffer significant harm if no order were made under section 31 but decided that he should make a supervision order rather than a care order. He ordered the local authority to

supervise the child for 12 months and directed that certain conditions be attached to the order.

The supervision order also contained the undertaking of the mother (i) to take the child to his school on time and to notify the school of any absence, (ii) to seek such treatment as might be recommended to her by the psychiatrist or medical unit at her local general hospital or such other hospital as might be recommended by her general practitioner, and (iii) to authorise the doctor to provide the local authority with details of her treatment and recommended treatment of one senior social worker.

Miss Elizabeth Ann Gumbel for the guardian and the local authority; Mr William Holland for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that it was submitted by Miss Gumbel that the judge had no power to make a supervision order in the terms of the order of May 18, 1995 and that in any event the judge was wrong to make a supervision order on the evidence before the court.

Miss Gumbel's principal submission was that the judge was not entitled to accept undertakings from the mother, even though she was quite willing to give them. The supervision order was therefore defective in that respect.

Miss Gumbel had other criticisms of the form of the supervision order. She pointed out, quite rightly, that a requirement to submit to any medical or psychiatric examination as directed by the supervisor could only be made in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 and could not be made under paragraph 2.

In those circumstances his Lordship was satisfied that the supervision order could not stand in its present form. Accordingly, it was necessary to consider Miss Gumbel's further arguments.

She submitted that the essential parts of the judge's order and that it was impossible to say whether, had the judge realised he could not accept the undertakings, he would have made a supervision order at all.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion, however, that on a fair reading of the judge's judgment he had ruled out of consideration, as plainly not being in the child's interest, his removal from the mother. It was quite clear that the judge thought and indeed found that it would be wholly contrary to

that a consequence of a breach of an undertaking might be imprisonment for contempt.

It was therefore clear that for the purposes of enforcement an undertaking stood on an equal footing with an injunction. It was also to be remembered that a county court had no inherent jurisdiction to grant an injunction to protect children: see *D v D (Child case: Powers of court)* [1994] 3 FCR 29 and *In re S and D (Children: Powers of court)* [1995] 2 FCR 456.

It followed therefore that, as a county court had no inherent jurisdiction to grant injunctions, it could have no inherent jurisdiction to accept undertakings in care proceedings.

Nor could a county court accept undertakings as part of a supervision order. Part 1 of Schedule 3 made no provision for undertakings. As Lord Justice Waite had explained in *In re V (Minor)* (unreported, June 13, 1994) the only sanction for an infringement of the terms of a supervision order was that it enabled the supervisor to return to the court.

His Lordship was therefore satisfied that Miss Gumbel was right. The judge was not entitled to accept undertakings from the mother, even though she was quite willing to give them. The supervision order was therefore defective in that respect.

Miss Gumbel had other criticisms of the form of the supervision order. She pointed out, quite rightly, that a requirement to submit to any medical or psychiatric examination as directed by the supervisor could only be made in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 and could not be made under paragraph 2.

In those circumstances his Lordship was satisfied that the supervision order could not stand in its present form. Accordingly, it was necessary to consider Miss Gumbel's further arguments.

She submitted that the essential parts of the judge's order and that it was impossible to say whether, had the judge realised he could not accept the undertakings, he would have made a supervision order at all.

the child's best interest for the care plan to be implemented.

The scales had not just tipped in favour of a supervision order but had come down completely against a care order. It was to be noted that the judge found that the risk of damage to the child under a care order far outweighed the risks that would be taken by making a supervision order.

His Lordship was accordingly satisfied that, had the judge had pointed out to him, which it was not, that he was not empowered to accept undertakings, nevertheless he would have made a supervision order albeit taking into account the mother's agreement to undergo medical treatment.

His Lordship therefore turned to Miss Gumbel's other main submission, namely, that in any event the judge was plainly wrong because his findings were wholly against the weight of the evidence. His Lordship had come to the conclusion that the judge was entitled to find that the mother's rather fragile stability had been upset by the legal proceedings and that she had been subjected to major stress.

The supervision order would have to be looked at again in a few months time. His Lordship did not find it possible to say, however, that the making of the supervision order was plainly wrong, nor was the case one where the court should have looked at the judge's decision on any other ground. Nevertheless the supervision order must be amended.

It seemed to his Lordship that at present it would be right that the mother's agreement to seek medical treatment should be recorded in a proforma in the supervision order so that if the mother failed to honour her agreement that failure could be brought to the attention of the court in due course. It would also be appropriate to record her further agreement to authorise her physician to provide the local authority with details of her treatment. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Mr Justice Bennett agreed.

Solicitors: Matthew Arnold & Baldwin; Watford: M. W. J. Church; Hereford: Pollards, Boreham, Herford.

Correction

In *In re M (a Minor) (Habitual residence)* (The Times January 3) the junior counsel for the mother was Mr Adam Wilson.

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 9994 EDUCATION LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

THE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL LANCASTER UNIVERSITY MPhil in Critical Management

Leicester University SCARMAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF PUBLIC ORDER

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES 1996 FORTHCOMING EDUCATION FEATURES

Airline Training for Pilots The quickest and most prestigious method of qualifying to fly for the world's airlines...

LEGAL PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

مركز الامم



CHOICE 1 No talking, please silent wonders meet for London's Mime Festival



CHOICE 2 The Bournemouth Orchestra plays Sibelius and Tchaikovsky

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3 Sir Charles Mackerras directs Mahler's Seventh Symphony



VISUAL ART Christie's mounts a fascinating show that portrays Brazil as early visitors saw it

LONDON LONDON INTERNATIONAL MINE FESTIVAL...

WEEKEND CHOICE A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kira Anderson

LIVERPOOL Ricard Rodney Bayrath's Paraiso for orchestra makes its Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra premiere...

MANCHESTER St Charles Mackerras makes a welcome return to the BBC Philharmonic...

LONDON GALLERIES British Museum, Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster...

GLASGOW Scottish Opera opens the new year with Humperdinck's enchanting fairy tale...

THEATRE GUIDE Jerrold Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

CHOICE 1 (cont.) BETHLEHEM A musical review based on the work of John Beaman...

CHOICE 2 (cont.) BLOOD KNOT A new play by David Hare...

CHOICE 3 (cont.) COMPANY A new play by Caryl Churchill...

CHOICE 4 (cont.) THE GLASS MENAGERIE Sam Wanamaker and Glenda Strehler play...

CHOICE 5 (cont.) MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN Daria Reggi stars in a new production...

CHOICE 6 (cont.) SALTIMBANDO Adorned by such as Robin Williams, Bill Clinton and Madonna...

CHOICE 7 (cont.) AN IDEAL HUSBAND Peter Hall reverts to 1932 production of Wilde's comic masterpiece...

CHOICE 8 (cont.) DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS Film in London and (where available) on video...

CHOICE 9 (cont.) THE RUN OF THE COUNTRY A new play by Caryl Churchill...

NEW RELEASES DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS Film in London and (where available) on video...

CINEMA GUIDE Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where available) on video...

CURRENT BABE (U) Groucho Marx's family comedy...

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by Joel Schumacher...

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (cont.) Directed by Joel Schumacher...

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (cont.) Directed by Joel Schumacher...

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (cont.) Directed by Joel Schumacher...

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (cont.) Directed by Joel Schumacher...

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor views South America through European eyes

Colonial brush in Brazil

There is generally something fascinating, for self-centred Europeans at least, in observing how other lands have been seen at first contact, interpreted and reinterpreted...



For the makers of Gobelin's tapestries, such as The Fishermen, the "Nouvelles Indes" became an abstraction

Among the artists were Frans Post, Albert Eckhout and probably Gillis Peeters, all represented in the show...

botanical studies, done while he was circumnavigating the world with Cook, contrive to be both formally and scientifically exact...

there is in plenty, but it is difficult to know whether social comment is lurking beneath the surface when he depicts the Return of the Naturalist's Black Assistant loaded with specimens...

Brazil through European Eyes is at Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 0JL (0171-839 1000) Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sun 12 noon-5pm, until Jan 26

Young Russians unite

Yana Polyakovskaya and Irina Feoktistova, both graduates of the St Petersburg Conservatoire, have been playing as a piano duo for ten years, and it shows...

of frustration that flickered across Polyakovskaya's face at the one chord in the recital that was out of tune together...

There was plenty of the required spiky rhythms and incisive articulation, from both instruments, while a more lyrical side emerged in Lutoslawski's Partita...

PLG Young Artists Purcell Room Faraday Wheel, according to the composer, a Wesleyan hymn is "stretched, polysyllabic and aggressively processed"...

ENTERTAINMENTS ART GALLERIES ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, PICCADILLY...

ALBANY 0171 381 1700... FIVE STAR SHOW... FIVE GUYS...

CAMBRIDGE 01223 4444... FAME... THE MUSICAL...

DON'T DRESS FOR DENNER... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... Hysteria...

HER MAJESTY'S... NATIONAL THEATRE... PALACE THEATRE... PRINCE EDWARD...

SAVOY THEATRE... VALLEYVILLE... THE SHAKESPEARE... REVUE...

CRAZY FOR YOU... DEAD FUNNY... FORBIDDEN PLANET... MUST END TOMOR...

SHARDERSHURTY... PRINCE EDWARD... MARTIN GUERRE... PRISONER... CELL-BLOCK H...

THEATRES ADELPHI ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE... SUNSET BOULEVARD... BEST MUSICAL... PETULA CLARK... THE JUNGLE BOOK... STUNNING COUPS DE THEATRE... YOUNG THEATRE... DEAD GUILTY... THE JUNGLE BOOK... STUNNING COUPS DE THEATRE... YOUNG THEATRE... DEAD GUILTY...

Advertisement for William Hill, featuring 'Blind Fly Above ad' and 'GET IT FREE!' text.

Why coming sixth is a champagne moment at Punchestown

Last Tuesday afternoon, the clerk of the course at Plumpton held an inspection and announced that the track was waterlogged. As a consequence, Wednesday's meeting was abandoned, which grieved me, for I had intended to go. Plumpton is an agreeable place; the train from Victoria drops you at the door and since they bulldozed the hill behind which the horses disappeared before they, or possibly some other horses, came back into sight, it has provided good sport.

So on Wednesday I went to Punchestown. My eldest daughter attended a funeral in Wakefield. She had to take her place by 11.30am and, as there are no bargain fares at that time of day, the return train journey cost £93.

I flew to Dublin from Gatwick for £68 and could have flown there from Stansted for £48. It is the new thing; no trappings flights. Seat yourself and, if

you want tea or coffee, you should have brought a thermos.

Punchestown is 45 minutes out of Dublin, a country course that has a festival week of fierce activity in late April and for the rest of the year holds nicely downbeat meetings at which people reminisce and get into trim. Wednesday was fine and sunny, the going was soft, the crowd modest and the ratio of bookmaker-to-punter seriously intimidating.

Racing is a sport that comes naturally to the Irish. This is horse country, the natives are knowledgeable and, when the runners parade, the people stand six-deep around the ring, when the horses canter to the start, the manner in which they go down is assessed with expertise.

There is a totalisator which is straight and honest, as are all touts. Bookmakers, on the other hand, are extrovert and cunning and call you "lad" as in "Come

on lads, who's going to take me to the cleaners?" Unlike our Honest Mick, who calls himself a turf accountant and plays it by the book, Honest Pat provides "niche" bets, like who is going to be the best of the unfancied runners; he makes a book without the five horses likely to be involved in the finish. I do not know many places where you can watch your horse come sixth and celebrate the success in champagne (non-vintage Moët is priced at £40 a bottle. Shame on the Irish).

Racing being part of the Irish way of life, people at Irish racecourses take these events in their stride, do not make occasions of them, neither dress up or



down. If you go racing with your girlfriend, you snog; go with your enemies, you argue; take your parents, persuade them to change their will... just as you do in life. While you are there, you eat chicken sandwiches and drink Hot Irish — a tot of whiskey, slice of lemon, lump of sugar, clove; the glass filled up with boiling water.

I go to the Punchestown National Hunt Festival every year. It is the Celtic Cheltenham: huge crowds, mammoth bets, six days of craic (pronounced crack) — which is a blend of conversation and Guinness and changing your luck with a hooley to see you through to breakfast.

They like the Brits, are pleased to see us, are warm and tactile and hospitable, and accept our money; they even used to give us 52 of their punts for a £50 note if we made an issue of it. That has changed.

The Tote window has a notice regretting that they do not accept sterling and a counter at the end of the building is manned by one manifesting all the casual charm of John Redwood, who demands 50p for changing a tenner into that number of punts. The flies have eaten the fly paper.

The quality of Wednesday's racing was mediocre: humdrum hurdles, chases that you could take or leave and a National Hunt flat race for those who like to stay to the end and become part of the traffic jam.

I backed Richard Dunwoody's horses. I reckoned that he had paid more than I for the flight across the Irish Sea and

that this was with some purpose in mind. Wrong.

Because this is not festival week and too early for American citizens tracing their ancestors, too late for Christmas celebration, the restaurant where I dined was empty, the food the way food is when the chef has no impetus. If the soup had been as hot as the champagne, the champagne as old as the chicken... that sort of meal. Then brandy at the Manor Inn in Naas, which, in late April, beaves with gregarious humanity; it now boasted three men at the bar and two women whispering in a corner. Right place, wrong time.

Racing in Ireland is an option that should be considered. Unless you are silly enough to indulge in what we call judicious investment and others deem "mug punting", a trip to Punchestown costs less than an outing to a noon funeral in Wakefield.

Keegan has plenty of work to do on Tyneside

By OLIVER HOLT

IT HAPPENED this time last year, when he sold Andy Cole to Manchester United, and now it is upon him again. Pressure and its icy blast have a habit of descending on Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, in the gloom of January. David Ginola's dismissal in his team's 2-0 defeat at Arsenal on Wednesday night, for elbowing Lee Dixon, and the subsequent Football Association inquiry into the unseemly touchline behaviour of Terry McDermott, mean it is close to crisis-time again.

The FA confirmed yesterday that, although the police will not take any action against McDermott, Keegan's assistant, or Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, for their shoving and finger-pointing in the aftermath of Ginola's dismissal, both men will be asked to submit their versions of events to Lancaster Gate.

The match referee, Gerald Ashby, was also ordered to submit an immediate report

at Selhurst Park this time last year, effectively scuppered Manchester United's chances of overhauling Blackburn Rovers at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. Ginola's aberration and anticipated three-match ban could hamper Newcastle's attempts to maintain the seven-point gap between themselves and Manchester United. Suddenly May seems a long way away.

Of course, there were extenuating circumstances behind Ginola's dismissal, in the 67th minute of the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final. Many Arsenal supporters said they had not witnessed such ferocious booing of a player since Mark Hughes and Paul Ince, then of Manchester United, came in for special treatment in a particularly fraught match at Highbury two years ago. Ashby compounded matters by booking the Frenchman for diving when he fell under a cynical tackle from Nigel Winterburn.

"When the rules do not protect the gifted players," Keegan said, "then we are in trouble. Ginola was more sinned against than sinner tonight and yet he was the one who was sent off. He is very different to Cantona in some ways, but I think they both have problems playing in English football."

In purely practical terms, too, Ginola's absence will be a heavy blow to Newcastle. Their huge squad has been pared down by the recent sales of players such as Ruel Fox and Scott Sellars and the injury to Keith Gillespie. With Ginola gone, too, suddenly there is a dearth of wide players to supply the ammunition for Les Ferdinand.

If there is any consolation for Newcastle supporters in all of this, it is that Keegan took pains to remove himself from talk of the succession to Terry Venables as England manager. "It has got absolutely nothing to do with me," he said. "My place is at Newcastle and, judging by the way we have played in the last few matches, we have got a lot of work to do."

Howard Kendall, the Sheffield United manager, will announce the club record signing of Don Hutchison, from West Ham United, for £1.2 million this morning.



Yuran, front, can see no problems after signing for Millwall, while Kulkov sees driving on the left as his biggest worry

Millwall's Russian revolution leaves comrades lost for words

Russell Kempson travels to the New Den to meet the first division's latest imports

It was not quite a cloak-and-dagger operation, masterminded by stony-faced men in heavy coats; it was not quite a proper press conference, with the subjects waxing lyrically and lucidly about their hopes for the future. When east met west yesterday, when Millwall introduced Sergei Yuran and Vasilii Kulkov to the assembly line, there was little to be said. The Russians may be coming, indeed have arrived, but they do not speak a word of English.

Instead, the thoughts of Yuran, 26, and Kulkov, 29, were heard via the voice of Elena Sidwell, interpreter, confident, football broker and all-round Mrs Fidd. It was her diplomacy, and the negotiating skills of the New York-based sports agency she works for, that arranged for the Russia internationals to trade in Spartak Moscow for south-east London.

Such a glamorous and globe-trotting life Sidwell

ought to be a little sharper with his finishing.

"They've got nothing to prove to me," McCarthy said. "They just want to prove they can play in England. We've eased them in gently this week and they've been fine."

On pedigrees, they should be fine. Yuran has made 154 appearances, scoring 59 goals, for Dynamo Kiev, Benfica, FC Porto and Spartak. He has played in 29 international matches, scoring eight goals, and should play for Russia in the European championship finals. "Once I get used to that, there will be no problems."

Yuran and Kulkov will play in the Endsteigh Insurance League first division match against Port Vale at the New Den on Saturday, when the Millwall supporters, not usually noted for their tolerance, will have a first chance to discreetly suggest that perhaps Vasilii should concentrate a bit more or that Sergei

leads. Last Friday, to the New Den in Bromontsey, to announce the signings; this week, the Millwall training ground at the former Midland Bank sports club in Bromley, to unveil the new boys; next week, Colombia, to set up another deal.

Yet only two hours' earlier, Millwall's proudest moment almost foundered because of last-minute nerves. "The lads were not keen to do this," Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, said. "It is a bit embarrassing for them. They just want to play football, but they eventually agreed."

So... did Yuran, a striker, or Kulkov, a defender, expect any hitches as they attempt to settle in this country? "I like London," Sidwell said that Yuran said. "My main task is to play and I can't see any problems. Millwall is a prom-

Hamed floored by hand operation

NASEEM HAMED had keyhole surgery in a London clinic yesterday after pulling out of the first defence of his World Boxing Organisation featherweight championship for the second time. Instead of promoting his contest with Arnulfo Castillo, of Mexico, at a Mayfair hotel, the 21-year-old from Sheffield was having an operation to repair the right hand he damaged when winning the title against Steve Robinson, of Wales.

The injury caused the postponement of the original bout with Castillo in December. Now, a recurrence has forced Hamed to withdraw from the rescheduled date of February 10 at the London Arena. Frank Warren, the promoter, said: "It is a worry. Three bones are fused together and need to be separated, but the doctor says it is not career-threatening and we are hoping he could be back in the ring in a month or so. 'Naz' could have had cortisone injections, but the problem needs to be sorted out."

King is checked

SWIMMING: Jaime King, of Britain, finished second as Han Xue, of China, broke her own world record in the women's 50 metre breaststroke in a World Cup series event in Peking yesterday. Han Xue clocked 30.98sec, with King touching home in 32.06sec. Suki Brownson, 30, the City of Coventry breaststroker who is aiming to become the first British swimmer to compete in five Olympic Games, has been recalled to the England squad after a four-year absence. Brownson retired from international competition after the 1992 Games, but resumed serious training last year.

Blundell's hopes go west

MOTOR RACING: Mark Blundell, of Britain, saw his chances of continuing his Formula One career virtually disappear yesterday when Tyrrell Yamaha confirmed that Ukyo Katayama would partner Mika Salo, of Finland, in their cars this season. Blundell, who was beaten to the vacant position at Sauber-Ford by Johnny Herbert, his compatriot, is likely to turn his attention towards IndyCar racing in the United States, having already worked with the PacWest team. Katayama, of Japan, has been with Tyrrell for three years, where he attracts his own sponsorship package to a team powered by Japanese engines.

Bond's defence breached

BOWLS: Ian Bond, England's youngest national indoor singles champion, will not be defending his title in April after he was beaten 2-1 in the Devon qualifying event yesterday by John Evans, a former international. Bond, 21, who has suffered a series of misfortunes since winning the event, had to pull out of the national outdoor championships at Worthing in August, when he was temporarily paralysed by a mysterious illness. He failed to impress the England selectors in the senior indoor trial last week, but will be skipping for the England juniors against the Wales Under-25 side at Portsmouth on Sunday.

Johnson Miami bound

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Jimmy Johnson is expected to be named coach of the Miami Dolphins, succeeding Don Shula, who has retired. Johnson coached the Dallas Cowboys to two Super Bowl triumphs before leaving two years ago after falling out with the team's owner, Jerry Jones. Wayne Huizenga, the Dolphins owner, had a five-hour meeting with Johnson, who has also had talks with Tampa Bay about their coaching vacancy earlier this week. Johnson coached the University of Miami for five seasons and is a strong favourite among supporters for the job with the Dolphins.

Champions on new track

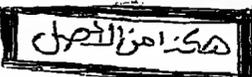
CYCLING: Rob Hayes and Russell Williams, the British Madison track champions, have signed for Team Ambrosia, joining a four-man team of road specialists that was announced last week. Hayes, who turned professional 12 months ago, was the most influential rider for London in the opening round of the five-cities track league at Manchester last weekend, with three victories, and will compete again tomorrow in the next stage of the five-week series. He will use early-season road races as preparation for his attempt to gain a place in the Great Britain squad for the 4,000 metres pursuit at the Olympic Games.

Only we can manage England

GET EXCLUSIVE LIVE COVERAGE ON OF EVERY PREMIERSHIP MATCH.



909 & 693 MW



40 ATHLETICS 37 THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF BRITISH RUNNERS

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 38 FRANCE SHUFFLE THE PACK FOR ENGLAND MATCH

FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1996

Robson heads England wanted list as hunt narrows



Kelly wants Englishman

THE morning after Terry Venables gave notice to the Football Association that he will give up the England coaching job in June, the serious business of securing a successor began. In essence, the FA wants a clone of the incumbent, preferably a Venables Mark II with clean hands when it comes to courts, vendettas and litigation.

relationships at Barcelona indicate that he may be a free agent at the moment that England needs a new coach. In addition, there is no question of the FA moving old bones with sufficient speed to elect its new chairman before they elect the man who will work for him. Thus Sir Bert Millichamp, scheduled to retire at 82 in the same hour that Venables goes voluntarily, will be the key man with the casting vote on the small committee that is now surveying the field of likely candidates.

Rob Hughes believes that realistic contenders to succeed Terry Venables are thin on the ground

those outside the members whom Venables alluded to as being "wobbly" when he needed strong support, is convinced that the Venables methods of training and selection are the way forward. Given that Kelly would like the appointment before the European championship begins and that Lancaster Gate envisions the new man working inside the camp by then, the options narrow dramatically.

coached the under-21s. Apprentices in the managerial game they may be, yet their supporters will point to the fact that Franz Beckenbauer led Germany to win the World Cup without having managed at club level. Robson, apparently with an escape clause permitting his release from Middlesbrough should England call, is therefore the new favourite and Venables has already offered him any help or advice he can give.

to take what Venables initially described as football's "major honour". What if either of them felt Venables' decision to build the squad around the fragile Gascoigne was inappropriate? What if Keegan were to prefer Ferdinand, with his extra pace and leaping power, to Shearer? What if either felt Le Tissier had not been given a fair chance when his form was the most creative in England? What if they felt that McManaman, one of the young bloods put into the England side by Venables, was wasted by being obliged to patrol the left flank?

We should all, pleads the FA, get behind Venables in his final months as England saviour. David Davies, the director of public affairs, was making that request inside Lancaster Gate on Wednesday, at the very time that Venables was departing by a rear entrance.

His company Jaguar slipped away beneath the electronic gate, the rest of the press photographers surprised and stranded, while his passenger was a journalist from a popular newspaper to whom Venables had revealed his intent even before it was confirmed to his employers.

As I feared, no matter how credible his work with footballers, the England coach has become a divisive figure.

Leading article, page 17 Homework for Keegan, page 36 Russians welcomed, page 36

England draw level in series

Hick onslaught paves way for dash to victory

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BLOEMFONTEIN

BLOEMFONTEIN (South Africa won toss): England beat South Africa by five wickets

ENGLAND'S cricketers lifted themselves out of their trough of despair by successfully chasing a target of 263 to win the second one-day international against South Africa here last night. The win, with nine balls to spare, was their first over the full South Africa side on the tour and the first time they had won batting second under floodlights since the World Cup four years ago.

The England match-winner was Graeme Hick, who set them on the way to their target with a scintillating 55 from 42 balls, having earlier taken two wickets and conceded only 28 runs in his ten overs in conditions that heavily favoured the batsmen.

Once again, England were indebted to Michael Atherton, whose 85 from 110 balls took them to within 65 of their target and won him the man-of-the-match award. He also captained his side in the field more astutely than in losing the first match in Cape Town.

He and his bowlers were under severe pressure after South Africa got away to a flying start and they managed to pull the situation round. Graham Thorpe also played an invaluable innings. He shared a partnership of 90 in 17 overs with Atherton and held firm when Rampakrish and Fairbrother were subsequently out in quick succession. Rampakrish had another miserable experience, run out brilliantly by Rhodes for only a single after three noughts in succession.

Thorpe, who hit the winning runs and finished with 72 from 85 balls, was helped in the closing stages by Stewart, who dropped down the order. England made another change in strategy to play six specialist batsmen at the expense of an all-rounder, Reeve, and the move was vital to the outcome. England's task was not made easier by floodlight failure during the 24th over of their innings, halting play for 40 minutes.

Things could barely have gone worse for England in the early stages. On a day of sweltering heat, they again lost the toss, which condemned them to bowling and fielding during the hottest period of the match. This played its part in their descent into raggedness and confusion after DeFreitas and Cork had experienced luckless opening spells, but the main cause was the clean hitting of Snell.

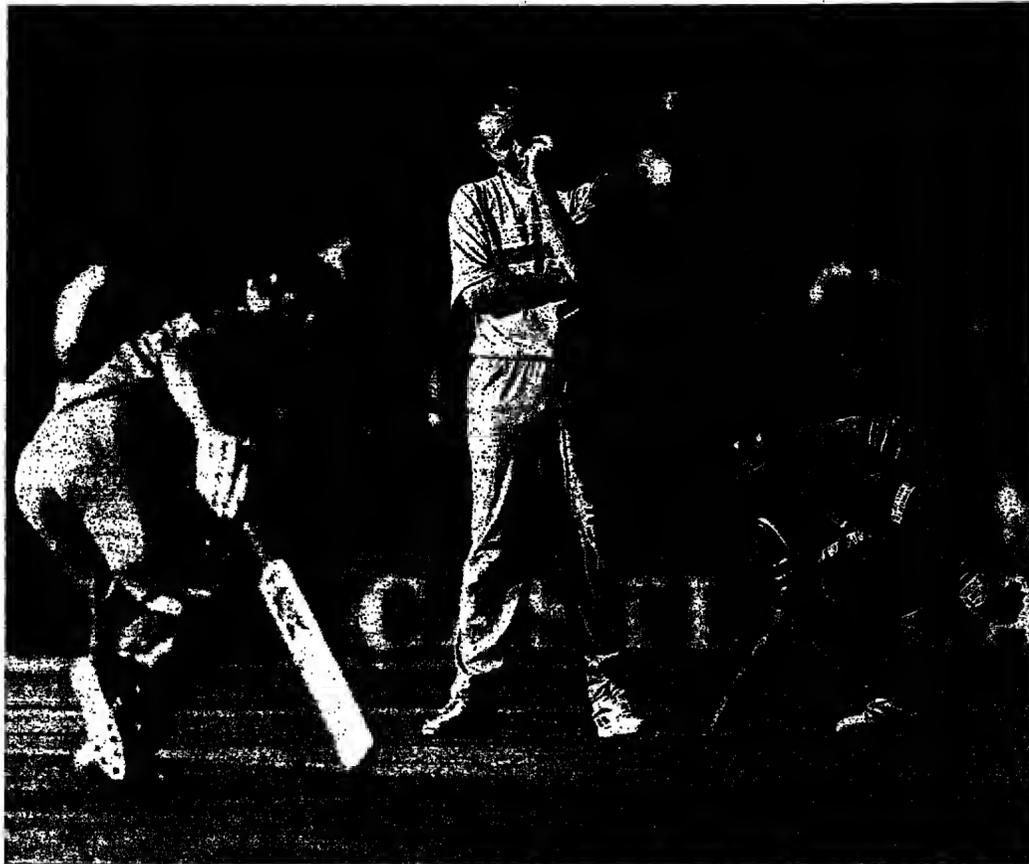
With Hudson also in fluent touch, the score was 82 for no wicket when the first 15 overs were complete. A total of 300 looked more probable than possible. Martin and White sustained the most severe punishment, Martin's first two overs costing 21, White's first three 20.

The flood of runs was stemmed by England's two slow bowlers, Smith, who flighted the ball expertly, and Hick, who broke the opening partnership of 116 in 23 overs by removing Snell for a career-best 63. Later, he dismissed Hudson, but, by then, McMillan had established himself through some outrageous improvisation.

It was Martin's removal of McMillan for 44 in an accurate spell that set South Africa off on an unconvincing search for an unbeatable total and made them rue the absence of Cullinan, who pulled out of the match at the eleventh hour with a strained calf.

Initially, Kallis and Cronje kept the score moving, but Cronje's slogging was so rustic that it was likely to be short-lived. When he heaved and missed at a straight ball from Cork, it started a collapse that saw five wickets fall in the space of 23 balls. In the end, South Africa had to be content with a total of 262 for eight and England had accomplished a worthy recovery.

Most heartening was the way Cork and Smith, in only his second match for his country, bowled at the death.



Smith, the England off spinner, ponders how to slow the scoring as the batsmen turn for a second run. Photograph: Graham Morris

Smith never lost composure and was rewarded with his first wickets, those of Kallis and Pollock.

England sent in DeFreitas to open with Atherton and he worked to his brief well, briskly striking 17 runs before a lofted cover drive located Rhodes.

Hick strode to the wicket at 37 for one in the seventh over and calmly proceeded to increase his side's scoring rate with a stream of boundaries against Snell, McMillan and Donald, whose first three balls he struck for fours.

In a frenetic half-hour, 50 runs were added of which Hick's share was 43. Shortly afterwards, he reached his fifty off just 55 balls, with nine fours and a six.

South Africa A C Hudson c Stewart b Hick 64 R P Smith c Fairbrother b Hick 62 B M McMillan b Martin 44 J H Kallis c Hick b Smith 49

*W J Cronje b Cork 19 J N Rhodes b Cork 11 G Kirsten c Fairbrother b Cook 4 S M Pollock c Rampakrish b Smith 5

N Boye not out 13 M R Rampakrish not out 12 M H Fairbrother c Rhodes b Hick 12

TA J Stewart not out 13

BOWLING: Cork 10-0-44-8 (w 4, 4-0-15-0, 4-0-22-0, 2-0-7-3), DeFreitas 8-0-30-0 (5-0-23-0, 1-0-7-0), White 6-0-37-0 (3-0-20-0, 3-0-17-0), Martin 6-0-43-1 (w 1: 1-0-7-0, 1-0-14-0, 3-0-21-1, 1-0-2-0), Smith 10-0-46-2 (7-0-27-0, 3-0-19-2), Hick 10-0-39-1 (w 2: 1-0-25-1, 3-0-13-1), Rampakrish 5-0-14-1 (one over)

ENGLAND P A J DeFreitas c Rhodes b Pollock 17 *M A Atherton c Cronje b Pollock 85 (143min, 110 balls, 5 fours)

G A Hick 85 b Cronje (59min, 42 balls, 1 six, 9 fours)

G P Thorpe not out 72

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37 (Atherton 18, 2-108 (Atherton 52, 3-136 (Thorpe 36), 4-200 (Thorpe 55), 5-223 (Thorpe 46)

BOWLING: Pollock 9-0-48-2 (w 1, w 1: 5-0-24-1, 2-0-8-1), 1-2-0-16-0; Snell 6-0-35-0 (w 2: 5-0-34-0, 1-0-0-0); McMillan 7-0-46-1 (w 1: 3-0-27-0, 4-0-19-1); Donald 10-1-44-8 (5-1-29-0, 2-0-8-0, 2-0-9-0); Cronje 7-0-32-1 (4-0-14-1, 2-0-10-0, 1-0-8-0); Kallis 5-0-27-0 (w 1: one over); Boye 4-0-25-0 (w 1: one over).

England won by five wickets. Match award: M A Atherton.

Umpires: W Diericks and R E Koortzen. Referee: C W Smith (West Indies).

SERIES DETAILS Jan 5: Cape Town: South Africa won by six runs.

MATCHES TO COME Jan 15: Johannesburg Jan 14: Pretoria Jan 17: Durban Jan 18: day-night, East London Jan 21: Port Elizabeth

Compiled by Bill Frith

Crossword puzzle titled 'TIMES TWO CROSSWORD' with a grid and clues.

Advertisement for 'New! The Best Sports Magazine You've Ever Seen!' featuring 'TOTAL SPORT' magazine.

Science applied to suspect action

THE cricket world was in a spin yesterday after a Hong Kong-based professor had been called in to decide "once and for all" whether Muttiah Muralitharan, the controversial Sri Lanka off spinner, is a chucker or not.

Dr Ravi Goonetilleke, a Sri Lankan professor working in Hong Kong, would then be able to download the pictures into a computer and show



Muralitharan's action has aroused controversy

category whether there is any straightening of the arm just before the ball leaves the hand, which is illegal under the laws of cricket.

The problem with all this is that even the most notorious chockers in the game's history did not throw every ball. They only did it when they were striving for extra pace, like Ian Meckiff of Australia, who was no-balled for throwing four times in one over and never played first-class cricket again, or when they were extracting the most vicious spin, like Tony Lock, of England, who was horrified to see a film of himself and refined his action.

Are umpires to be equipped with laptops so that they can monitor every delivery? Can computers be programmed to adjudicate on whether a batsman is out leg-before?

Fortunately, it should not come to that. The International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's ruling body, has turned down Sri Lanka's request for a final ruling on Muralitharan's action be-

Advertisement for 'TOTAL SPORT' magazine, highlighting 'United!' and '132 Glossy Pages Plus Free Stunning Photo Book'.

Large advertisement for 'Antonons Bankrupt' and 'Lady tries' with various promotional text.

Clintons 'facing bankruptcy' over huge legal bills

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT and Mrs Clinton's huge legal costs have put them "on a collision course with bankruptcy", a leading American financial publication reported yesterday.

The Clintons have so far run up more than \$2.1 million (£1.36 million) in lawyers' bills while fighting Whitewater charges and the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, said Money magazine.

However, their legal defence fund — which cannot actively solicit contributions — has raised only about \$865,000, and their net worth of nearly \$700,000 in 1992 was now nearly zero. Were it not for the defence fund and the forbearance of their \$400-an-

hour lawyers, "the First Family could be broke already", the magazine concluded.

"The legal bills are killing them," said one presidential adviser, but the magazine did note that the Clintons would have great earning power after leaving office.

Mr Clinton was last night preparing to defend his embattled wife at his first full-scale White House press conference since last August. Tonight, he flies to Bosnia for a high-profile visit to US troops that the White House hopes will divert attention from the controversies presently engulfing Mrs Clinton.

A new CBS television poll showed the number of Ameri-

cans who regard the First Lady favourably had dropped from 59 to 47 per cent in a week, and respondents, by 49 to 29 per cent, believed she participated in a Whitewater cover-up. Analysts suggested she was becoming a liability to her husband as he embarks on his re-election campaign.

The Senate Whitewater committee was yesterday grilling one of her former colleagues at Little Rock's Rose Law Firm in a bid to resolve conflicting accounts of how much work she did for the corrupt bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair whose owner was the Clintons' business partner.

Mrs Clinton has said it was not she but the colleague, Richard Massey, who secured the bank as a client, but Mr Massey told the televised hearings he could not recall the precise circumstances.

At the same time, new documents surfaced to bolster an assertion by David Watkins, a former White House aide, that Mrs Clinton personally ordered the unwarranted sacking of the seven-mao travel office in 1993. This directly contradicted her claim that she had no role.

The new documents included a chronology of events prepared by Thomas "Mack" McLarty, then White House Chief of Staff. "May 16 — HRC pressure," he wrote three days before the dismissals.

Six of the travel office employees were later exonerated and reinstated. The seventh, Billy Dale, lost his job and spent \$500,000 on legal fees before a jury took less than two hours to acquit him of embezzlement. Republicans say the episode destroys Mr Clinton's claim to be the champion of ordinary Americans who work hard and play by the rules.

In an interview being broadcast tonight, Mrs Clinton puts on a brave face. "Occasionally I get a little distressed, a little sad, a little angry, irritated," she says. "That's only natural. But I know that's part of the territory and we'll keep ploughing through and trying to get to the end of this."

First Lady tries to turn over new leaf

By TOM RHODES

THE truth according to Hillary Clinton is one of soft-focus motherhood, of breastfeeding and schooling, religious service and family values. In short, the book obscured by the latest round of Whitewater allegations offers a self-portrait markedly at odds with the image of a First Lady branded a congenital liar.

She reminisces fondly about her grandfather's anecdotes of childhood among the lace mills of Co Durham, provides a charming vignette of a two-year-old Chelsea biting her inattentive father on the nose, explains how the couple visited a fertility clinic in their impatience to have a child and even intimates how close they have come to divorce.

This is surely not the same Hillary Clinton who hid details of her work for Madison Guaranty, the bank at the centre of the Whitewater scandal, the woman accused of lying to federal investigators or the First Lady involved in the firing of White House travel office staff?

Indeed, it Takes a Village,

And Other Lessons Children Teach Us, named after an African proverb and the first volume from the pen of Mrs Clinton which arrived on America's bookshelves yesterday, had been designed to counterbalance an image as hot-tempered harridan and prepare the way for her husband's re-election. Mrs Clinton is unlikely to view a forthcoming book tour through the moral heartland of America with much relish.

Each story reveals not an ambitious lawyer wishing to crown herself effectively as Vice-President, but an engaging, level-headed woman who has spent a lifetime focusing on the needs of children, in particular those of her daughter.

"I have spent much of the past 25 years working to improve the lives of children," she writes. "But no experience brought home the lesson as vividly as becoming a mother myself. When Chelsea Victoria Clinton lay in my arms for the first time, I was overwhelmed by the love and responsibility I felt for her."



Trent Strader, 40, gestures towards his lawyer during a hearing in a Las Vegas court, where he was charged with the murder of a British tourist, James Smith, 69, of Prestwick, Ayrshire, was stabbed to death in the main street last week

Blizzard whips up Washington shopping frenzy

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON returned to a semblance of normality yesterday for the first time in four weeks as federal workers went back to their offices and the deepest snowdrifts started to melt.

But beneath this veneer, chaos continued to reign in the American capital and any celebration among its workaholic population was short-lived as the National Weather Service predicted another blizzard and more heavy snow last night. The shutdown, caused by the budget impasse and then the storm, may be in effect once more today.

A stampede for the shops had started earlier, with reports of ugly battles in the aisles at better stocked supermarkets throughout the city after snowbound Washingtonians went in search of food for the first time in days.

The usually polite and orderly check-out queues became scenes of unseemly disputes and some shoppers said they had gone home empty-handed.

"Not in my 21 years working here have I seen anything resembling this," said Rick Makely, manager of the Giant Supermarket in West Springfield. "It is frenzied. The customers' patience has obviously worn thin. They're fighting over loaves of bread and fruit."

Even the ordered food halls of the "social" Safeway in middle-class Georgetown resembled a go-kart track as residents, frustrated by being confined to their homes and the inability to shop for groceries, careered their shopping trolleys around the aisles. The

latest weather forecast also appeared to have upset Washington's emergency services, all of whom were bickering over an apparent inability to clear the capital's streets of snow. Marion Barry, the Mayor, gained a "sympathetic" response from the Clinton Administration after declaring a state of emergency and calling for federal assistance in road clearing.

What is becoming known as the First Blizzard of '96 is costing eastern states as much as \$10 billion (£6.4 billion) in lost production and \$7 billion in lost sales, according to estimates issued yesterday by DRI/McGraw Hill, the economic consultancy.

Winter may be only weeks old, but many states reported that their snow removal budgets for the year were already exhausted. Maryland said the storm could cost as much as \$48 million and the clean-up in New York City is expected to run as high as \$21 million in overtime and lost revenues.

Shifting drifts from the Garden State Parkway in New Jersey, the country's largest commuter toll road, required 500 workers, 4,900 tonnes of salt and more than 400 vehicles at a cost of \$2 million.

The brief break in the weather did allow rangers in Shenandoah National Park to rescue three men and their children from a cabin buried under snow. It had taken them two days by snowplough to reach the site.

Last night, weathermen were forecasting a major storm early next week that could again close airports in the region.

Armed robber 'runs phone con trick' from US jail

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A PRISON inmate in New York blew officials a spectacular "Bronx cheer" (raspberry) by allegedly using a jail telephone to run a confidence trick.

Raymond Sanabria, 31, an armed robber, used a public telephone at Rikers Island jail. Telephones are provided for inmates to talk to relations and lawyers, but Sanabria is accused of dialling random numbers

instead. Posing as a policeman, he apparently told whoever answered that a family member had been arrested and that bail should be posted at once. Victims of the sting were instructed to wire money to a Western Union office where an accomplice was waiting, say prosecutors. The confidence trick, conducted over several months, brought in \$23,000 (£14,900).

Robert Morgenthau, the Manhattan District Attorney, said that Sanabria was astonishingly plausible, so fluent

he could have been a successful trial lawyer. A police witness said the accused had missed his vocation as a telemarketing executive. Sanabria's sly patter also had an impact on his personal life: one of his potential victims was a husky-voiced young woman with whom Sanabria conducted a telephonic romance. They wed recently in the Rikers Island chapel.

Sanabria, accused of grand larceny and criminal impersonation, faces a maximum sentence of 80 years for the

sting, to be added to the 25 years he may receive for armed robbery when he is sentenced.

Yreka: A Californian woman who pleaded guilty to setting brush fires in July to create work for her firefighter son was sentenced to 120 days in jail.

Judge Roger Kessel also sentenced Charrman Glassman, 60, of Mount Shasta to five years' probation and ordered her to pay restitution to the California Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service. (AP)

THE TIMES

THE BEST NEVER BEEN A MORE REVEALING PORTRAIT

CHANGING TIMES

http://www.the-times.co.uk

NordicTrack at its most affordable!

It's now even easier to look good and feel great with NordicTrack. Our January Special Offer entitles you to 10% discount off any NordicTrack exerciser, which means you can achieve total-body fitness from an affordable £269!

10% OFF ALL NORDICTRACK MODELS until January 27th 1996.

Nothing shapes and firms your entire body like a NordicTrack exerciser. You get an exhilarating total-body workout which tones and conditions all your major muscle groups at once.

Just 20 minutes, three times a week.

All NordicTrack exercisers simulate cross-country skiing — agreed by experts to be one of the best forms of aerobic exercise in the world. Regular total-body workouts — as little as 20 minutes, three times a week — will help to strengthen your heart and lungs, maintain

healthy blood pressure and cholesterol levels and even reduce stress.

What's more, you can burn up to 890 calories per hour — that's 24% more than an exercise bike, 35% more than a stepper and 20% more than a treadmill.

Follow the example of four million Americans

Millions of people worldwide already keep fit with NordicTrack — follow their example and try our easy-to-use exercisers at home for 30 days. If the results don't impress you, we'll refund the purchase price in full.

Our January Special Offer is only available until January 27th 1996. So don't miss out on the best value in fitness today — call now for details of your nearest NordicTrack Fitness Centre or to order your free brochure and exercise video.

0800 616179
PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE DTJAG

I'm interested in taking advantage of the NordicTrack January Special Offers. Please send me my free video and brochure without obligation.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms): _____

Address: _____

County: _____ Postcode: _____

Tel (day): _____ Tel (eve): _____

Send to: NordicTrack (UK) Ltd., Dept DTJAG, 1 Collins Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, AL3 7TE. Alternatively, you can fax us on 01426 470411.

NordicTrack

THE WORLD'S BEST AEROBIC EXERCISERS

int narrow



The Best Sports Magazine you've Ever Seen



صكزا من الل اصل

Patten challenges Peking to set up democratic council

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHRIS PATTEN, Hong Kong's Governor, yesterday challenged Peking not to establish a "counterfeit" Legislative Council here and vowed to continue to call for democracy and the rule of law.

Earlier, British officials in Peking had enthused about an improvement in Sino-British relations after three days of talks between Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Chinese ministers. It was difficult to see, however, what had been achieved.

Despite the high hopes raised by Mr Rifkind's first visit to China, and the gloss he put on his meetings with Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, it was clear last night that little progress had been made on the two main points at issue: the retention of the Legislative Council after the transfer of sovereignty in June 1997, and a greater role for Mr Patten.

The point was reinforced yesterday when Mr Qian said that abolition of the Legis-

lative Council in 1997 was not negotiable.

Mr Patten, meanwhile, speaking on Hong Kong's government radio station, questioned whether Peking intended to set up a fairly elected legislative body or "a cardboard cut-out, or a counterfeit".

The remark will outrage Peking, which describes Mr Patten's constitutional changes, including the elected council, as a violation of British-Chinese agreements on the political structure of the colony in the run-up to 1997. Peking says it will establish a "provisional council" on July 1, 1997, and hold elections for a substitute body at a later date.

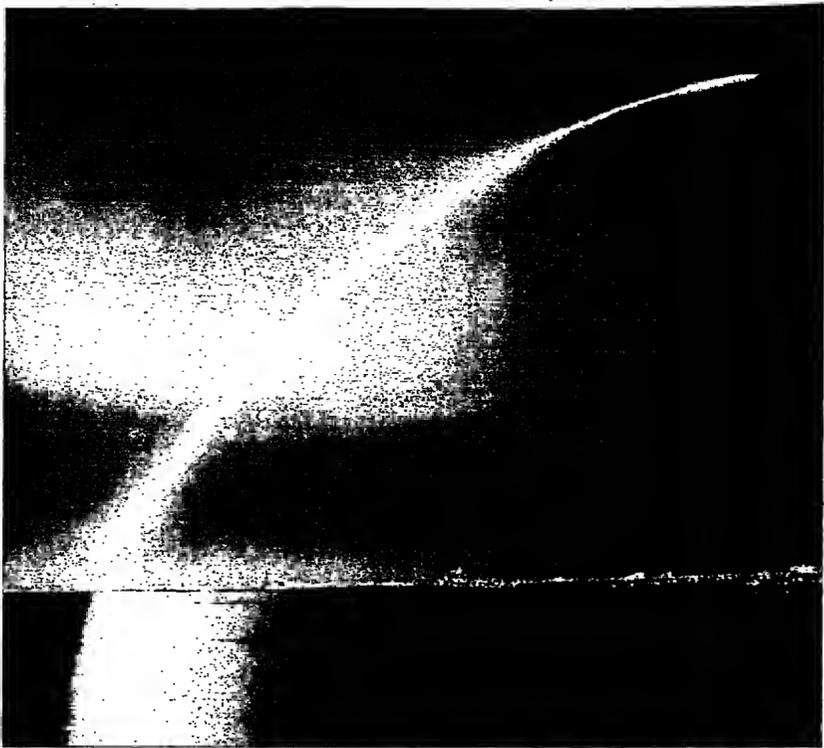
On the question of raising important issues, Mr Patten said: "I will continue to speak up for the rule of law and freedom of speech." He said he intended, courteously, to continue to debate political matters with the Chinese, insisting that acquiescence would mean "breaking promises to the people of Hong Kong".

After what Mr Rifkind described as a "substantive" 70-minute meeting with President Jiang Zemin — 30 minutes longer than scheduled — he told reporters: "I was pleased to hear him give repeated emphasis to the importance China attached to the autonomy of Hong Kong and its determination to respect that autonomy."

Asked about the Legislative Council, Mr Rifkind said: "That position has not changed... I believe it would be of considerable damage to confidence in Hong Kong if the council was dismantled and we hope the Chinese Government will reflect on that matter."

□ Bush plea: The former US President George Bush has called for a new dialogue with China. Talking in Hong Kong after meeting Chinese leaders in Peking, he warned against American isolationism as China develops into a world power. (AFP)

Letters, page 17



The shuttle Endeavour streaks skyward yesterday from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, leaving the city of Cocoa Beach on the right. A crew of six will undertake a nine-day satellite retrieval and scientific mission.

Dissident warns of threat to Dominica

BY MICHAEL BENYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Saudi dissident, Dr Muhammad al-Masari, facing deportation from Britain, gave a warning yesterday that his arrival in Dominica would endanger safety on the Caribbean island.

Speaking shortly after handing in his appeal papers contesting the order by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Dr Masari said he fully agreed with Rosi Douglas, the opposition leader in Dominica, that his presence on the island would be a threat to its safety. He said Dominica had only 300 police, who could not stop a mercenary force of 50 to 60 people who might be sent to eliminate him.

"The country is simply too small," Dr Masari said. He had discussed the issue with Mr Douglas during his visit to Britain on Tuesday and noted that the opposition would move a vote of no-confidence in the island's Government.

Dr Masari, an Islamic activist, also denied a report in today's *Jewish Chronicle* that he had links with an Islamic group in Britain which had threatened Jewish students.

Socialists take on Tokyo's poisoned finance chalice

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

JAPAN announced a conservative-dominated Cabinet yesterday under Ryutaro Hashimoto, the new Prime Minister, with key posts for the Liberal Democratic Party and finance going to the Socialists.

The post of Finance Minister has always been regarded as one of the most powerful positions. However, recent financial scandals and problems, including a government plan to use nearly 700 billion yen (£4 billion) in taxpayers' money to liquidate financially troubled housing loan firms, has taken the lustre off the portfolio.

Mr Hashimoto is known to have offered the post to numerous senior LDP politicians, but they all turned it down. The Liberal Democrats have taken on the key posts of home affairs and defence.

The strategic block of parliamentary votes held by the Socialists ensured the party a strong representation in the previous coalition administration. The portfolios of finance and defence were regarded as too sensitive to be given to the party.

Wataru Kubo, the secretary-general of the Socialist Party, agreed to take the finance post, reportedly on the basis that he will also serve as Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Hashimoto appointed Yukihiko Ikeda, a former Defence Minister and LDP colleague, as Foreign Minister. Mr Ikeda will have to face the difficult task of handling Japan's relations with the United States, amid growing opposition from the southern island of Okinawa to the presence of US military bases.

Hashimoto victory seals tilt to Right

BY PAUL CARTER

THE election of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Liberal Democratic Party leader, as the Prime Minister of Japan consolidates the success of right-wing forces.

With the main opposition New Frontier Party led by Ichiro Ozawa, a former LDP strongman, the political situation is akin to having Michael Portillo and John Redwood in charge of the two main parties in Britain.

This renewed entrenchment of the Right is extraordinary for, after the general election of July 1993, the 38-year period of continuous LDP rule ended and power was assumed by an eight-party coalition intent on changing the direction of politics and breaking what had become one-party dominated rule. What went wrong?

Part of the answer lies with the split in the LDP which precipitated the 1993 election, prompted by the younger members' impatience with the septuagenarians who ran the party. It was Mr Ozawa who passionately argued the need for change and initiated what became known as the *furusu no kuni* or "normal country" debate. To Mr Ozawa, "normal country" equates with one which can defend itself independently.

The strong-arm tactics and backroom deals of Mr Ozawa eventually led to the formation of the 170-member New Frontier Party which last year proved its ability as a credible fighting force when it won 54 of the 84 seats on offer in the Upper House elections. Since 1993 the Socialists have been bounced between coalitions like a political football, eventually forming an unusual alliance with the LDP under the temporary caretaker prime ministership of Tomichi Murayama. During this time, to make their marriage to the LDP work and in the hope of engaging the electorate's trust, the Socialists recanted all of their key policies. After the resignation



Hashimoto: wants seat on the Security Council

of Mr Murayama and the sidelining of the Socialists, the Right has again reasserted itself in government under Mr Hashimoto.

Moreover, now the leadership of the two main parties has skipped a generation. Japanese politics is faced with the relatively youthful Mr Hashimoto, aged 58, and Mr Ozawa, 53. The desire for change which led to the initial split of the LDP is still apparent, with both leaders being vocal in their support for Japan's claim of permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, and both arguing for constitutional change.

With the Socialists sidelined a political scenario has arisen where two conservative parties vie for power. Mr Ozawa and the Right have clearly won the "normal country" debate. Whether this result was serendipitous or sheer Machiavellianism on the part of Mr Ozawa, the emergence of two main conservative parties and the expectation of high Socialist Party losses in the next election does raise fears about the legitimacy of a democracy whose opposition and governing party is represented by a conservative block with few if any balancing factors. Paul Carter researches Japanese politics at the Centre for International Studies, University of Cambridge.

German renews for single currency

Falkland claim believed

Italian leader resigns again

Atlanta dance

Journalist force allowed

Angler bitter

Leaders speculate on exodus

Escort Cabaret.
A nice,
sensible
family car.

(Allegedly.)

At first glance the Cabaret would seem to be the ideal choice for all those family outings.

What with central double locking, electric front windows and an anti-theft alarm it's certainly not lacking in refinement. But look a little closer.

The wheels are five spoke alloys! Then there's

the rear spoiler and sport style bumpers. Notice how they're colour coded to match the metallic body paint! (Just one of six colours available.)

Be under no illusions. The Cabaret is more than just an average family saloon.

Under the bonnet is a Zetec 1.6i, 16 valve

engine. Although we've a choice of 1.4i or 1.8 Turbo diesel if you prefer.

But with an on the road price* of £12,200 (a mere £11,600 for the 1.4i), this sporty edition could be the most sensible family car you're ever likely to buy.



*On the road price includes Recommended Retail Price, delivery charges, 12 months road fund licence and estimated costs in number plates and fuel. Vehicle shown: Escort Cabaret 1.6i. Also available Escort Cabaret 1.8 Turbo Diesel - £12,500 on the road.

German economy renews fears over single currency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

FRESH proof of trouble in the German economy yesterday increased a wave of pessimism that has spread this week through continental capitals over the prospects for achieving the launch of a single European currency.

Fears that Germany, the anchor of the planned currency, could fail to meet the conditions for entry in the economic and monetary union (EMU) sharpened with its report of a meagre 1.9 per cent growth last year and predictions by economists that worse would come this year.

Most embarrassing for Germany was the confirmation that it failed last year to live up to the Maastricht ceiling on budget deficits. Its shortfall was 3.6 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with a 3 per cent limit in the "Maastricht criteria".

On Monday, France reduced its official growth forecasts in the face of a

A European Commission survey shows that 65 per cent of Britons believe the pound will be replaced by the euro early next century. Monetary union is backed by 38 per cent and opposed by 55 per cent. The public were far less Euro-sceptical than their Government.

slowdown, while some experts wrote off French hopes of meeting the "Maastricht criteria", the strict terms which must be achieved next year to qualify for EMU entry. "It is now certain that France will not be ready," *Liberation*, the pro-European Paris daily newspaper, said yesterday.

"Barring a miracle, the plan for passage to the single currency... will not work." Evidence of the downturn in France and Germany is heightening anxiety in the European Commission and

ministries, where officials have been striving to keep up the confident front adopted in Madrid last month when European Union leaders baptised the euro currency and fixed the timetable for the EMU launch on January 1, 1999. It is becoming more likely that leaders will soon have to breach the taboo they imposed on themselves and review options for a delay beyond 1999.

Privately, even officials in federalist states acknowledge that a delay of a couple of years would relieve the pressure building everywhere, except in Luxembourg, as a result of the rush to the EMU deadline.

Supporters of the single currency could extract comfort from the publication yesterday of the Commission's annual survey of public opinion. This found that support for the EU had stopped falling over the past couple of years.



Russian soldiers move artillery up to the village of Pervomaiskoye yesterday as Chechen guerrillas threatened to start killing their hostages

Russian police escape from Chechen captors

FROM CARLOTTA GALL NEAR PERVOMAISKOYE

FOUR Russian special forces officers escaped last night from the village where they were among more than 100 hostages being held captive by Chechen guerrillas. Tass news agency reported.

Quoting the Russian Interior Ministry, it said that the four managed to make it back to the lines of Russian troops encircling Pervomaiskoye. The police, all members of Omon special forces, were among 37 seized by the guerrillas who were making their way back to Chechnya in buses after raiding the neighbouring town of Kizlyar. Earlier yesterday, a column of armoured personnel carriers and

lorries moved towards the Dagestan village where the fighters and their captives have been halted. The Chechen fighters threatened to start shooting captives if the heavy armour went closer than 100 yards. Towards evening they and the hostages were dispersed among different houses. It emerged during the day that the Chechens were holding about 100

people from the village. Moscow security experts said the Russians were probably preparing to storm the buses. Casualties from three days of the crisis stand at more than 20. The Chechen rebel President, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, said that the hostage seizure could be the start of a terror campaign inside Russian territory.



Dini: faced defeat in parliament

Italian leader resigns again

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

LAMBERTO DINI, the Prime Minister of Italy, yesterday offered his resignation to President Scalfaro for the second time in a fortnight, deepening the political crisis marred by the country's European Union presidency.

Signor Dini announced his decision at the end of a three-day debate in the lower house of parliament on the future of his Government of technocrats. He previously offered his resignation to President Scalfaro on December 30, fulfilling a promise he made to parliament last year.

The President refused to accept it and sent him back to parliament to see if he could secure a majority to carry on. But in the debate in the lower house, both the Centre-Right and extreme Left parties vowed to support a motion of no-confidence. Signor Dini evidently preferred to resign to avoid a humiliating defeat. "The technical government over which I have presided has exhausted its duties," Signor Dini said to applause from MPs. "Now a new phase of political life can begin."

The public RAI television said the President might again refuse his offer of resignation and give Signor Dini an "exploratory mandate" to see whether he can form a new government.

Falklands claim not believed

London: Three-quarters of Argentinians do not believe that their country will win sovereignty over the Falkland Islands during the presidency of Carlos Menem, according to a poll commissioned by an Argentine think-tank (Michael Byron writes).

The December poll of 1,000 people showed that 76 per cent believed President Menem would not gain sovereignty. He made this a central plank of his recent re-election campaign. The more educated the respondents, the less likely they were to believe him.

Andrew Gurr, Chief Executive of the Falklands Government, said the islanders knew that much of what was said about sovereignty was rhetoric, "but it is gratifying to note that this is seen as rhetoric by the Argentine people".

Atlanta danger

Washington: Atlanta, site of this year's Olympic Games, is the most dangerous American city in terms of crimes such as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, according to a private survey. (Reuters)

Journalist freed

Lagos: Nigeria has freed on bail a British journalist after charging him with possessing seditious material, diplomats said. Paul Adams, of the *Financial Times*, had been detained for a week. (Reuters)

Force allowed

Jerusalem: Israel's High Court of Justice decided to allow interrogators to use force against a Palestinian suspected of involvement in a bombing last year that killed 21 Israelis. (Reuters)

Angler bitten

Komakovo, Russia: When an angler celebrated catching a 28 in pike by giving it a kiss, it bit back. Its jaws stayed tightly locked on his nose, even after friends cut off his head, until doctors removed it. (AP)

Serb leaders speed Sarajevo exodus

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

SEPARATIST Bosnian Serbs, whose leadership has been threatening an exodus from Serb-held areas around Sarajevo, stepped up the pace of their departure yesterday, moving out their belongings, digging up relatives' remains and scorching the earth behind them.

On a hill above Grbavica from which Serb forces shelled the Bosnian capital, flames ripped through six homes that had been abandoned because of their proximity to the front line. "We weren't living there, but it's better than no one should have the house, no Muslim will get it," said Dragan, a Serb with a wife and baby.

In nearby Ilidza, the family of Obrad Popadic, the former commander of the hardline Ilidza brigade killed in May 1994, exhumed his remains. The fallen commander's wife

stood weeping against a tree as the rotting coffin was raised from the earth and placed in a tin box.

"His body is going to go, but his spirit will stay here," said Igor Miletovic, the commander's 28-year-old cousin. "We are leaving to go to Visegrad or Zvornik or somewhere in eastern Bosnia."

Roads leading out of the suburbs — Ilidza, Grbavica, Iljjas, Vogosca and Hadzici — are jammed with lorries brimming with household appliances and furniture. Cars are packed to the brim, with sofas and chairs tied to their roofs.

A feeling of hysteria, fuelled by propaganda from the embittered Bosnian Serb leadership in Pale, has taken hold across the five Serb-held suburbs due to revert to Bosnian government control under the terms of the Dayton peace accord.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST

SALE

PHONEX 0990 220 220 FOR ADDRESS INFORMATION AND OPENING HOURS. FREE CAR PARKING ALL STORES. FREE DELIVERY SEE WEBSITE.

LONDON

- Central London (No car park) 156 Tottenham Court Road W1
- N. London Staples Corner HW2
- NW. London North Circular Road NW10 (300 yds. Hanger Lane Circus System)
- SE. London Clifton's Roundabout, South Circular Road SE9
- SW. London Morden Road, South Wimbledon SW19
- Croydon 500 Purley Way, Five Ways, (A6), TEND
- Enfield Great Cambridge Road, (A10) adj. Salfords, entrance on Southbury Road
- Hemel Hempstead Apsley Mills Retail Park, London Road, (300 A41)
- Bford 643 Eastern Avenue, Romford Arterial Road, Gallows Corner
- West Haverock Lakeside Retail Park

SOUTH EAST

- Canterbury 274 High Street, (Nr. Civic Hall)
- Spwicks Ratchlogh Road, Heading London Road, (The Royal Berks Hospital)

SOUTH

- Southampton Shirley Retail Park, 227-239 Winchester Road

SOUTH WEST & WALES

- Bristol Cibis Crossway, (Junct. 17, M5)
- Cardiff City Link, Newport Road
- Swansea Valley Way, Ullarret

'SOPHIA' 3-SEAT SOFA + 2-SEAT SOFA WAS £1150 NOW £995

3-SEAT SOFA + 2 ARMCHAIRS WAS £1295 NOW £1195

20 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT ONLY 10% DEPOSIT

EXAMPLE: SALE PRICE £1000, DEPOSIT £100, BALANCE £900, 20 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £65, TOTAL CREDIT PRICE £1000, APR 6%

20% purchases of 1995 and latest models in certain. Written details on request.

'Sophia' - two top quality leather sofas for under £1000! Just one of a storeful of offers in the World of Leather Winner Sale. In fact, every one of our 100 styles is reduced. What's more, our sale prices are genuine savings, because World of Leather prices represent the best leather value all year round. Cash-backs, trade-ins and gimmicks are not our style. You might find longer credit or apparently bigger savings elsewhere, but don't be fooled - look at the prices.

World of Leather means real value, always. And during the Winter Sale, hundreds of real savings too.

WORLD OF LEATHER

MIDLANDS

- Birmingham Edgbaston Shopping Centre, Hagley Road
- Luton Luton Grove Farm Triangle, (Nr. Sainsbury's, Opp. Fosse Park)
- Northampton Bridge Street
- Nottingham Huntington Street
- Wolverhampton Stafford Street

LEICESTERSHIRE

- Leeds Alreside Centre, Whitehall Road
- Rotherham Retail World, Parkgate

SOUTH EAST

- Gateshead Pettill World, Team Valley

SOUTH WEST

- Chester The Greyhound Park, Sealand Road
- Liverpool 459 Edge Lane, (11 mi. from M63)
- Manchester 95 Cheetham Hill Road

SCOTLAND

- Glasgow Great Western Retail Park, Great Western Road

صكنا من الله صل

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Biographer Sarah Bradford hopes she's got into the Queen's mind The Queen doesn't think of herself as 'winning hearts'

Sarah Bradford, alias Viscountess Bangor, publishes her new biography of the Queen in celebration of Her Majesty's seventieth birthday this spring. Forty years ago, as Sarah Malet Hayes, aged 17, she courted before the young Queen Elizabeth as one of the last debutantes...

Here she wrote her first book, The Englishman's Wife, in 1969, still regarded as the standard work on port. "There was a terrific hoo-ha over a woman writing about port. I was like Dr Johnson's woman preacher..."

or scandals erupt. Everything then seemed ticky-bo. "So much so that when I began, people would react as they did when I was writing George VI: 'Goodness, how dull. But I was fascinated by it all...'



The Queen: "She doesn't court popularity"

The George VI book (a portrait of the late King which is lucid, convincing and admirably fair) - Philip Ziegler went down very well with Her Majesty; a great help when undertaking this book...

She was born in Bournemouth - "so dull" - in the bridge-playing set. "Father was a regular soldier, very clever, a great reader, introduced me to books; my mother's family were thick as planks..."

Or to be told, of Princess Grace - "my teenage idol, the ice maiden" - by a producer friend at a party. "Do find out which of her leading men she didn't sleep with..."

She achieved the title by marrying in 1976 her second husband, William Ward, now Viscount Bangor, whose parents ran the Portobello Road antique shop called Trad. Lord Bangor operates his antiquarian bookselling business from home...

While reading history at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, she met her first husband and went off with him to Sardinia, Barbados (a long way from Bournemouth) and the wild Douro Valley in Portugal.

It was Queen Mary who decreed that royal ladies should not smile. "Too awful! Smiling!" she would comment if a regal smile were captured on camera. Hence her own severe mask...

Her book is crammed with enthralling documentation: the Queen's letters to her uncle the Duke of Windsor; her invitations to him (minus War) for arrangements for his widow. There is Lord Houghton's radical and far-sighted 1972 Select Committee report on the Civil List...

There is the sad story of Crawfie, much of it from the Beaverbrook archive in the House of Lords, including the heartless letters from the Sunday Express editor John Gordon. "The Express papers were obsessed with royalty, although Beaverbrook wasn't keen on the Royal Family..."

Since Robert Lacey's Majesty book, 19 years ago, writing about royal lives has become commonplace, and an increasingly intrusive spotlight has been turned on them. To write with both authority and discretion remains tricky.

Rebecca West said that the monarchy is "a presentation of ourselves behaving well" but, as Ms Bradford says, when the Queen tried to preserve some kind of "normal" life for her children, they began to behave just like their contemporaries, and in some ways worse. So the overall picture of royal family life is not edifying...

Prince Charles, in Ms Bradford's view, is "obviously a sweet, good-natured person, not as clever as he thinks he is, who has been spoiled by his entourage and undermined by his parents". Princess Margaret is bolstered by the Queen's support: "She understood the wilfulness, which was really the futile beatings of wings against the wall."

"Margaret has had a bad press as a spoilt, difficult, demanding woman," says Ms Bradford. "But she does have the most intelligent ladies-in-waiting, and that says a good deal for her, doesn't it?"



Sarah Bradford, biographer of George VI and the Queen, says: "I was fascinated by how this incredibly important woman operates, how she thinks"

found, as other royal historians such as Elizabeth Longford found, that the story has changed almost daily. First came Panorama - "Diana setting out her stall, putting the blame on her husband, letting it be known she would not go quietly..."

"That's the whole point of being a biographer, to know why they think as they do. I do admire her very much - even though I don't go racing, I am not interested in horses, and I can't say we are the same sort of person..."

She hopes she has managed to get inside the Queen's mind: "That's the whole point of being a biographer, to know why they think as they do. I do admire her very much - even though I don't go racing, I am not interested in horses, and I can't say we are the same sort of person..."

But, having finished the book last August, she has found, as other royal historians such as Elizabeth Longford found, that the story has changed almost daily. First came Panorama - "Diana setting out her stall, putting the blame on her husband, letting it be known she would not go quietly..."

"This is in direct contrast to what the Palace had told me that the Queen will not get involved. I think she was particularly struck by Diana's saying that Charles was not fit to be a king. And her refusing to go to Sandringham was the final straw. Although the Queen doesn't want to take sides, in the end the monarchy comes first. Divorce has to happen sooner or later. I am glad she has acted. It is her job to look after the monarchy. I'm a monarchist too."

And so to the Queen's own marriage. Ms Bradford reasons: "How can you write in this day and age without discussing her marriage? Maybe one shouldn't. But to me it is valid. I did say to an old friend of hers, look how she should handle it?..."

And so to the Queen's own marriage. Ms Bradford reasons: "How can you write in this day and age without discussing her marriage? Maybe one shouldn't. But to me it is valid. I did say to an old friend of hers, look how she should handle it?..."

In Edward VII's day the whole point was not to divorce. A woman might expect a man to go messing about but not to treat her badly. Edward was extremely nice to Queen Alexandra, despite Mrs Keppel and Lillie Langtry. You treated your wife all the better if you were having an affair. And she concludes: "Despite the fact that, as friends admit, she is a difficult man and the Queen finds him difficult, she adores him and defers to him, which seems all the more strange to observers in that everyone else defers to her."

FINAL EXECUTION OF DRASTIC DISPOSAL ORDER. SHORT NOTICE OF A VERY IMPORTANT UNRESERVED DISPOSAL AUCTION of 73 Bales - Bill of Lading No 096-8896-A156. Now have been cleared from HM Customs and Excise bond VAT and duties paid together with a carefully assembled consignment of exceptionally fine and medium quality hand-made valuable Persian, Islamic & Oriental Carpets, Rugs, Runners & Kilims.

STARBUCKS TOMORROW In The Times tomorrow: exclusive serialisation of Elizabeth, Sarah Bradford's intimate portrait of the Queen. Part one focuses on the marriage between the Queen and Prince Philip, and what has made it the most loving of royal partnerships. THE TIMES Can you always get your copy of The Times? Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times.

Give Revised Inter CURRENT ISSUE

think
of
hearts

How much prestige is there in being in Who's Who? Julia Llewellyn Smith and Giles Coren find out from the great and the good

Who's in and who wanted out

Tom Jones was delighted to be asked. Lenny Henry and Gary Lineker were thrilled to accept. And Terry Venables was probably comforted to know that, whatever the England fans may think, *Who's Who 1996* considered him a winner.

Few people turn down an invitation to appear in the big, red book. There are 30,000 entries in the new *Who's Who*, each selected by a secret committee whose criteria are as mysterious as their identities.

However, not everyone is flattered to be approached. "For some reason, far more women than men never return their entry forms," says a *Who's Who* spokeswoman. "Most won't give their reasons, but a few will say, 'Oh no! I'm not important enough.'" Women are not the only wallflowers. Other refusals include Tiny Rowland and Mick Jagger, who has been sulking ever since the 1960s when the Rolling Stones were in the first

flush of their fame and asked their agent to demand an entry. "Good heavens, no!" was the reply. "Who knows, they might be barrow boys next week." Later that day the agent sent round a barrow full of flowers. When Mick Jagger was sent an invitation in 1986, he declined.

When the first remodelled *Who's Who* appeared in 1997, everyone accepted the invitation for entry that year except for Joseph Chamberlain and Lord Salisbury. W.S. Gilbert at first declined to supply his details but when the editor submitted for his approval an entry that read "W.S. Gilbert, journalist, writer of the libretti for Sir Arthur Sullivan's operas", Gilbert immediately completed the questionnaire. Anne Robinson, the journalist



Michael Dobbs put his phone number in; Germaine Greer avoided arrest; Ken Follet prefers being in



and broadcaster, who was a new entry in 1995 says: "I was shamefully delighted to be asked. I filled in the entry form that they sent me, and thought to myself that this was true recognition for a woman in her own right. When they wrote

back to me the name on the envelope was Mrs John Penrose. "There is no good reason to refuse. You can say anything you like about personal details, like your age. I know several television personalities who used to be born

the same year as me, but now seem to be six years younger." Michael Dobbs, the author of *To Play the King*, was another 1995 entry. "Until 1994 I was ex-directory because I believed that it protected my privacy. But the

media can always find you, and the only people I was being shielded from were my friends, the people I actually wanted to get in touch with me. So now I am in back in the phone book, and I gave all my details to *Who's Who*, including my home telephone number. A few years ago I suppose I might have been flattered to be asked but the book is so enormous now that it doesn't make you particularly special."

Germaine Greer has said: "Once when I was in Khartoum, I was grabbed by the presidential guard outside President Nimeiry's palace. I protested that I had an appointment with someone in the Government and was only trying to find him. They took me to an office where I was left waiting to be

the official's desk. I asked him to look me up, hoping against hope I was in it. He smiled in disbelief but I insisted that he look up the name in my passport, and there I was! Suddenly, there was a reception committee, red carpet, drinks."

Ken Follet, the thriller writer and Labour Party groupie, has an entry for the first time this year. "Will critics treat me with a bit more respect now? I doubt it," he says. "It is kind of flattering, but it is a terribly snobby list. It is full of aristocrats who have never done a day's work in their lives. And MPs get in even if they are the laziest and most useless in the Commons."

"It's better to be in than out, I suppose. But it doesn't mean much. It is like an ornament on a mantelpiece: a nice thing to have, but of no real use. One good thing that may come of it is that journalists will be able to get my age right in future."

Give a woman a good cigar

Marlene Dietrich and Catherine the Great loved it, and now Quentin Letts reports from America that a new generation of women are discovering the pleasures of cigar-smoking

THROATY Marlene Dietrich would have savoured the scene off Park Avenue, New York, the other Monday. It was dusk at the bar of the Waldorf Astoria, and raining Martinis. There must have been more than 300 people in the room, mostly thirtysomething good-looking, with the women's necklines plunging, thighs flashing. And you know what? At least half were fingering long, sleek cigars.

The Waldorf party, which one could smell a block away, was held to celebrate the launch of *Smoke* magazine, a new glossy devoted to "cigars, pipes, and life's other burning desires". Its publication coincides with an astonishing growth in the American cigar market. Sales of good cigars rose by 32 per cent in the first six months of last year. But the one aspect which really has the tobacco world sucking on its stogies is the leap in female cigar smokers.

For years, Marlene Dietrich was the only cheroot-smoking woman people could name. At the turn of the century there had been Amy Lowell, the New England poet, Annie "get your gun" Oakley and the bank robber Bonnie Parker. They could point to the example of Catherine the Great, who found that a long, strong smoke helped her through the St Petersburg winters. But in more recent times, while it was not uncommon for women to unwrap a cigar, and even cut and toast it under a long match for their amours, cigar smoking was generally left to the men.

A glance around the bar at the Waldorf Astoria the other night showed that things have changed. In one corner stood a couple of flat-stomached beauties, both holding six-inch Dominican Licencio-touched Toros. Through the door walked a raven-haired beauty in a partially open mink coat. She

flared her nostrils and inhaled deeply the thick, cigar-scented air before closing her eyes in ecstasy. To all sides, husky female voices sounded. And down the way from me sat a cool blonde, Lynne Poland, an elbow resting on the bar and a newly-lit Montecristo trailing smoke from her lean left hand.

Miss Poland, 34, is a spectacular example of the new wave of cigar connoisseurs. She has been smoking for ten years, and has been employed by leading cigar merchants as a sales assistant and executive. She now has her own cigar-importing company, Lynne Poland Enterprises (president: L. Poland), and says that smoking cigars is one of her "few ways of relaxing".

New York, a city with no shortage of independent, rich women, is on the crest of the female cigar movement. Manhattan's Monkey Bar has held an all-dames smoking night, an event repeated at the bar's sister restaurant, Tapika, where the star speaker was Emmanuelle Marty, the French founder of El Subliminado cigars. A chapter of the George Sand Society for cigar smokers — named after the cigar-smoking author and pioneering feminist — has opened in New York, and more than half the members are women.

Paramour of Chopin and author of *The Haunted Pool*, George Sand smoked several cigars a day, partly in line with her "lifestyle as rebellion" campaign, but partly because she grew to like the things, even rely on them. Julie Ross, co-founder of the society's branch in Santa Monica, California, has said that she was attracted by George Sand's "uncompromising individuality and spirit of freedom. She was an outrageous character but also very accomplished and successful."

The spirit of freedom, so long considered a part of American life, is an important motivator here. In the past ten years smokers have been relegated to second-class citizens. Ironically, the anti-smoking campaigners may have given smoking the allure of rebellion. It is also notable that the women's movement, which might normally protest against any health threat to women, has not uttered a word against the growth in female cigar smoking. Cigars are liberating, a tool of emancipation.

The well-established *Cigar Aficionado* magazine, which *Smoke* must hope to emulate, recently carried a lengthy essay in praise of cigar aficionados. Typical of its subjects was Tomima Edmark, a Dallas businesswoman, who



For husky-voiced, cheroot-chomping women, the bigger the better is the advice from the cigar lovers. Sales of quality cigars have leapt and more women are smoking them

described the first time she smoked a cigar. She was in Chile and had just returned from a diplomatic dinner.

"I was sitting in the hotel lobby with a group of 12 American businessmen when they, en masse, began lighting up Cuban cigars," she recalled. "I was intrigued by the sight. One of them offered me a cigar, but in a very teasing way, never expecting me to accept." She did accept, however, and although initially she did not like the taste she derived pleasure from the lighting ritual.

She also discovered the effect it can have on the weaker-minded sex. A South American man, having watched her amorously for some time, walked up to her and invited her to dinner with the words: "I've been looking all my life for a woman who smokes a cigar." She turned him down — no chat-up line so corny deserves to be rewarded.

European women have been ahead of their American sisters for some time on the cigar front — Denmark is apparently the hot zone for female cigar-smoking — but for tobacco growers it is America, with its large population and its spending habits, that promises the rich returns.

The movement has some star recruits. Linda Evangelista, Whoopi Goldberg, Jodie Foster and Madonna have all lit up, while in Britain we have had the artist Maggi Hambling. *The Sunday Telegraph's* elegant literary editor Miriam Gross, and *Spitting Image's* Margaret Thatcher puppet. American women are smoking at the expensive end of the market, choosing "gourmet" cigars. In the late 1980s statistics suggested that women formed a mere one-tenth of 1 per cent of the cigar market. In Manhattan today they are reckoned to form close to 5 per cent of it.

At *Cigar Aficionado*, the growth in the female market has come as a pleasant surprise. When the magazine

started three years ago it expected its readership to be elderly and male. It is, in fact, being read by younger people of both sexes. Simultaneously, a Florida cigar maker plans to introduce a special brand for women. The Cleopatra Collection of cigars have tapered ends, making them easier to light and to hold in the mouth — although one suspects that part of the appeal of cigars for some women is their very masculinity.

For men, the sight of a woman lighting up a Sancho Panza Corona, a Bering Imp-

erial or, say, a Fonseca Triangular can still lead to comic double-takes. Colleen Magill, a writer from Philadelphia, recalled how her cigar habit once caused a road accident. At some red traffic lights a man in the car next to her stared in disbelief at the stonking great chimney protruding from her lips. In his daze he absent-mindedly lifted his foot from the brake and crunched into the car in front of him. Ms Edmark, toying with a Davidoff Ambassador — they have such great names, these cigars, like Fifties cars — has noted: "I've never met a

man who wasn't sitting there smiling when I lit up. It's a great conversation starter."

A leading Chicago tobacco-ist, Diana Silvius-Gits, told *Cigar Aficionado* that women are her trade's "next big market" and that they are fast finding their way around the various brands and cigar types. In general, they tend to go for the milder ones, though size is no guide to the taste of a cigar. Emmanuelle Marty likes her own Subliminados, mellowed by brandy, but also smokes Bolivers and Montecristos. Ms Edmark, if out of Ambassadors, goes for Churchills. "Don't be scared of big ones," she says. Followers of Sigmund Freud have plenty to discuss here.

Lastly, is it attractive? The smell can be a problem. After the evening at the Waldorf Astoria I not only felt as though I had passive-smoked the contents of an entire humidifier, but also had to take my suit to the dry cleaner and ask him to set his machine's dial to "industrial". It was the same story at Claridge's last year, after a *Cigar Aficionado* dinner at which some 900 cigars were lit. A boiler-suited crew of cleaners equipped with factory defumigators were kept busy the entire following day.

The actress Kim Basinger, when shooting *Nine and a Half Weeks*, complained about having to kiss her costar Mickey Rourke, who smokes 40 cigarettes a day. It was, she said, "like licking an ashtray". Kissing a cigar smoker can probably be compared to puckering up to a furnace door in the Black Country. The only solution is to take up cigars yourself.

The women's movement has said nothing against it

For husky-voiced, cheroot-chomping women, the bigger the better is the advice from the cigar lovers. Sales of quality cigars have leapt and more women are smoking them

Castanets at five paces: Spain's top flamenco company brings hot-blooded melodrama to London Page 32

RISING DAMP?

TACKLE IT WITH WALLGUARD

— A SYSTEM IN PRACTICE FOR OVER 60 YEARS

The Wallguard ceramic tube system of damp proofing has been in use in ancient and famous buildings for many years. A prime example is Westminster Abbey in which the system was first fitted in 1932 — and was recently added to by Wallguard.

- ❑ No internal plaster disturbed
- ❑ Suitable for any type of wall finish
- ❑ Vent plate available in white or brown to match wall
- ❑ Ceramic tubes tailor made to fit any thickness of wall

You can have the Wallguard system installed in your home to combat rising damp or replace a conventional damp proof course that has failed. Since Wallguard is normally fitted from the outside, internal wall surfaces and decorations need not be disturbed — unless they are already badly affected.

Brick, Stone, Granite etc. Whatever thickness of wall we can do it.

NO MAINTENANCE NO MESS NO FUSS

Also ask about our condensation and mould control service.

WALLGUARD

YOU'RE HOME AND DRY

For further details or to arrange for a survey
PHONE US FREE ON 0800 508608

❑ My chemical injection has failed ❑ No existing damp proof course
❑ Conventional damp proof course has failed ❑ Condensation Control
❑ I would like to eliminate damp once and for all

Name: _____ Address: _____
Telephone: _____

Send to: WALLGUARD, FREEPOST MK 8787, MANCHESTER M16 8HB.

Revised Interest Rates

CURRENT ISSUES - EFFECTIVE 12/01/96

Account	Amount Invested	Great %
Nova Access Offshore	£ 150,000 - £ 500,000	6.75
	£ 50,000 - £ 149,999	6.55
	£ 25,000 - £ 49,999	6.45
	£ 5,000 - £ 24,999	6.10
Nova Nine Offshore	£ 1,000 - £ 4,999	4.60
	£ 150,000 - £ 500,000	7.00
	£ 50,000 - £ 149,999	6.80
	£ 25,000 - £ 49,999	6.60
Nova Growth Bond II Offshore Interest rate set monthly each year	£ 5,000 - £ 500,000	6.30
	Year 1	7.00
	Year 2	7.50
	Year 3	8.00

For further information telephone Gibraltar 76168. Fax Gibraltar 76169

or send the coupon to the address below.

Name (in block capitals) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Tel. _____

NEWCASTLE
BANK (GIBRALTARI) LIMITED

Registered Office: Halford House, Library Street, Gibraltar

Newcastle Bank (Gibraltar) Limited is a company incorporated in Gibraltar. It is a member of the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission. The Commission is a statutory body established under the Gibraltar Financial Services Act 1995. It is responsible for the regulation and supervision of the Gibraltar financial services industry. The Commission is also responsible for the promotion and development of the Gibraltar financial services industry.

صكنا من الأهل

Philip Howard



Hellfire is too satisfying an idea to be abolished by Church of England fiat

So the Church of England has ruled that Hell exists and that we shall all face a Day of Judgment. Such Anglican certitude is as welcome as it is unusual. However, the bad news is that it has ruled out the fire and brimstone, arm the devils with red-hot branding-irons. From St Paul to the latest millionaire evangelist, with fleets of Ferraris and dachas (both scarlet) offshore, hellfire preachers have always frightened the collection out of their congregations by this threat.

Eternal damnation, preferably with the *peine forte et dure* (in the French torturers' term), and a squillion times more painful than the worst tortures on Earth, is a particularly attractive notion for mankind. Especially if it is used to punish one's enemies — such as the infidel, heathen, and of course rival sectarians. Such sadism goes back long before the jolly Marquis and even Christianity: to Prometheus having his liver eternally transplanted by vulture's beak, Sisyphus rolling his boulder up the down escalator, and starving Tantalus tantalised by delicious food and drink just out of his reach. Without infernal brutality, such Surrealists as Hieronymus Bosch and Quentin Tarantino would find their occupations gone.

And the loud literary form of the hellfire sermon would lose its force. The mythical example is the Wee Free Minister in the Hebrides ranting the fear of God at his congregation: "And in that terrible eternity, when ye are roasting in burning oil, ye will look up and cry, 'Lord, Lord, we didna ken!' And from His throne of infinite majesty, the Lord will look down and say, 'Well, ye ken noo.'" The story may even be true on Harris, where they put lobster pots over the coals on the Sabbath to stop them pleasing the hens.

But the autistic hellfire sermon was hardly less alarming. Here is the unapologetic Puritan, Christopher Love, in 1650: "When thou art scorching in thy flames, when thou art howling in thy torments, when God shall laugh, and His saints shall sing and rejoice, that His power and wrath are thus made known to thee." And from the other side of the bloody pulpit, here is the royalist fellow of All Souls, Jeremy Taylor: "Hell could not be Hell without the despair of accursed souls; for any hope were a refreshment, and a drop of water, which would help to allay those flames, which as they burn intolerably, so they must burn for ever."

The theological argument against devils with taunting-forks asks why a good God would allow anyone to be deprived of Him, let alone suffer the torments of the damned for ever. Part of the paradox is said to be that it was a generous act to give human beings the ultimate free will of rejecting the good for ever. Some generosity! The Marxist (Groucho) argument goes that a good god would not want to go to any heaven that would admit him as a member, out of fellow-feeling for those condemned to the other place. The company of Don Giovanni and Julian the Apostate sounds more fun than most of those saints and preachers, popes, Dr Paisleys and martyrs.

It is a literary truism that Satan rather than Adam, Eve, those indistinguishably priggish archangels or even God Himself is the romantic hero of *Paradise Lost*. You meet a much better class of sinner in Dante's *Inferno* than in the *Purgatorio* or *Paradiso*. That heroic regicide Brutus ends up in the bottom of the freezing pit being chomped by Satan himself. But Dante reserves his love and best lines for such miserable sinners as the lost lovers, Paolo and Francesca, Virgil, and his old tutor, Bruno Latini.

Death is going to be less interesting without the billing pitch and the screaming devils. But even though the Church of England has ruled Hell theologically incorrect, it is too satisfying an idea to go away. Zealots, sadists and nutters will keep it going. Martin Luther was a witty man, though much obsessed with Hell and influenced by the mortal cruelties of the Reformation. He was pestered by a young theologian with the question of where God had been before He created the world. Finally Luther snapped: "He was building Hell for such presumptuous, flustering and inquisitive spirits as you are." Right on, Martin. Hell is not just for other people. It is also strictly for other people.

Hell is not as bad as it is depicted - Anglican report



The diva with a shadow

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf stands accused of being a Nazi. But what would any of us have done in her position?

I was only a few weeks ago that I wrote, yet again, about the Holocaust. On that occasion I was discussing, first, the mad or evil (or mad and evil) men who deny that the Holocaust ever happened, and next, the much more evil men — yes, there are some — who yallow in the Holocaust, loving and revering Hitler. Hark to the American Gary Lauck, perhaps the most Nazified figure in this entire midden (he is so steeped in Nazism that he has grown a moustache exactly like Hitler's, and although he is entirely American, he deliberately speaks with a German accent): "In my opinion the Jews were treated too humanely. We must never make this mistake again."

So what is there more to say, after that? Two things: the first thing was encapsulated by a Holocaust survivor, who said, "I believe no culprit should be allowed to climb into his grave without being unmasked". And the second thing? The second thing is what I propose to write about today.

I have been rebuked for my belief that the few old men who murdered Jews and somehow found asylum in Britain should be left in peace, though their victims could find no peace except in the grave. (One of the accused could be seen on television a few days ago; very old and no doubt ready to deny everything.) When will that tap stop dripping? The answer is a grim one: it will stop dripping when, and only when, every person who has drunk from it or washed in it is dead. Again and again, some elderly man or woman is found to be a survivor of the Holocaust, and it is sometimes a very delicate matter to discover on which side that person lived.

But now we have another problem. We have, still living among us, one of those elderly figures — she is just 80 — who cannot be simply categorized as another old and doddering figure, of no importance except to her own family. For this person, you see, is famous. Very famous indeed.

True, she is famous only in the musical world, but in that world she still shines above us like the stars, for a star she was throughout her wonderful career. That career was based in Britain — indeed, she lived in Hampstead — when, of course, she was not flitting about the world doing her work. In 1979, when her British husband died, having worked tirelessly for her fame, she retired to Switzerland. She is not a recluse by any means: in 1992 she was

decorated by the Queen as a Dame of the British Empire. And now, someone has written and published a book about her and her career.

Tush: there must be a dozen books about her and her career; I have one on my own shelves, and I would feel odd if I hadn't. For you see, the famous person we are discussing is Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, one of the most wonderful opera singers the world has ever heard.

I started with the words "For you see", but you cannot possibly see until I have explained, I said, that someone had written a book about Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, and such books are standard in the operatic world: but even the most self-satisfied diva (and the luvvies in the world of the opera are self-satisfied indeed) would shudder on seeing such a book as the one that has just been published, written by Alan Jefferson (who here? and published by Victor Gollancz. (Gollancz himself died many years ago and his business was long ago swallowed up by Cassell, but the publishing world has a generous and charming practice which leaves intact the imprint of a long-dead publisher.)

Now the book says, in the most vigorous terms, that although Elisabeth Schwarzkopf was indeed a most wonderful singer, she was also a deep-dyed Nazi throughout her entire time in Hitler's Germany and quite possibly after. (There is another very aspect to this story: Gollancz himself would have been horrified twice over to learn that Madam Schwarzkopf was being attacked, once because of her miraculous singing, and second and more important because Gollancz spent thousands of hours on reconciliation between Germany and Britain — indeed, the world.)

And here we are again. But we are no longer talking about the doddering figure with one foot in the grave: we are talking about a musician of genius and her past. And her past, for many people, is more interesting than her genius, particularly for those whose relatives died in the gas chambers. Before you shout me down, kindly listen to this:

I obediently declare herewith: none of my parents or grandparents has ever belonged at any time to the Jewish religion, nor have I ever been married to anybody of non-Aryan descent. I vow to be true and obedient to the Führer of the German Reich and people, Adolf Hitler, and to fulfil my duty conscientiously and unselfishly.

That, as you may have guessed, was the form of induction into the Nazi Party. And that was Elisabeth Schwarzkopf signing on as a fully fledged member, number 7,548,960. Now you can shout. Particularly because there is proof that, after the war, when the Nazis were being sorted out from the innocent and the sounds that came from her were not the thud of the jackboot, I can tell you. Come, she signed up on a wicked piece of paper; did that make her wicked? Did she ever push a Jew off the pavement? Did she demand space in the Nazi newspapers to denounce Jews? How often did she go about with members of the Gestapo telling where Jews were hidden?

Take it from me, you pillow-heroes, when your time comes, most of you will suffer just as much trembling of the hands as any ordinary coward like me. Who will demand that Elisabeth Schwarzkopf must be braver than anyone else?

Not me. She was weak, perhaps, and — more to the point — she wanted cheers. What artist of the stage doesn't? (I don't think even Haitink would reject them.) But above all, in this story, there hangs one more aspect, and it is this. We cannot measure, let alone understand, what a life in the Third Reich meant. When you and I can understand it, then, but only then, may we rebuke Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. I think the rebuke will be some time coming.

Now then: singing beautifully and being a Nazi is not necessarily the same thing, nor the opposite of it. If you made a list of artists — in music, in the theatre, in painting and sculpting, in writing itself — and then counted up the whole number of German artists who carried on their trade after being fully inducted into the Nazi Party, how many would the list contain? And then, after the war, count the number of such figures. Three-and-half, would you say? Where is the ruler that always rules straight?

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf signed up as a Nazi, true to her leader, Adolf Hitler. And what did that mean? That would, every Saturday, murder a specified number of Jews? Reader, would you like to live between the devil and the deep blue sea? Her signing on as a Nazi meant nothing other than "I want to go

on singing". Who shall be so pure and white to say no to Adolf Hitler, when saying no is likely to mean losing a job, and instead a life. Yes, there were heroes, who died for being heroes; come, Mr Jefferson, with hand on heart, would you swear that if you had a choice between signing on as a Nazi and being hung from a fine wire you would not choose the signature?

The trouble with this terrible problem is that Elisabeth Schwarzkopf learnt to sing, and to sing so beautifully that her singing was heard all over the world. If she had only learnt double-entry book-keeping, not only would she have had no reason to tell lies about her past, but she would have been much less likely to be obliged to sign up as a Nazi against her will.

How many human relics of the war and the Holocaust are there left? How many prominent persons in the arts and sciences who lived through hell and saw the rainbow in the end? These are no less or more cherishable human beings, for all their prominence. Fear of a dreadful death, in those days, hung over the great and the low together.

Who was Elisabeth Schwarzkopf to change the world? In a sense, and a rather powerful sense, she did change the world, at least in one tiny corner. In my own youth I heard her sing again and again, and the sounds that came from her were not the thud of the jackboot, I can tell you. Come, she signed up on a wicked piece of paper; did that make her wicked? Did she ever push a Jew off the pavement? Did she demand space in the Nazi newspapers to denounce Jews? How often did she go about with members of the Gestapo telling where Jews were hidden?

Take it from me, you pillow-heroes, when your time comes, most of you will suffer just as much trembling of the hands as any ordinary coward like me. Who will demand that Elisabeth Schwarzkopf must be braver than anyone else?

Not me. She was weak, perhaps, and — more to the point — she wanted cheers. What artist of the stage doesn't? (I don't think even Haitink would reject them.) But above all, in this story, there hangs one more aspect, and it is this. We cannot measure, let alone understand, what a life in the Third Reich meant. When you and I can understand it, then, but only then, may we rebuke Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. I think the rebuke will be some time coming.

Are there still two nations?

The North-South divide is no more, says Paul Barker

Does the North still exist, in the old sense, as chronicled in a thousand novels and political tracts? Can one still talk about a North-South divide? On Monday, BBC2 begins a nine-part saga, *Our Friends in the North* — "three decades, four friends and the world that shaped their lives" — which assumes that you can.

Certainly, the North-South divide is a phrase still much used by politicians. It was behind the Labour Party's proposals for English regional assemblies, to complement its devolution schemes for Scotland and Wales. Tony Blair has backed off, pending further evidence that local people actually want such assemblies. But if regional divisions are still so great, why don't they show much enthusiasm? Perhaps the North-South divide has gone the way of the dodo and the great auk. Always trust the people.

The starting point of *Our Friends in the North* is Newcastle upon Tyne in the 1960s, when T. Dan Smith, the local Labour Party boss, said he would do anything to pull the city and its region up by their bootstraps. Newcastle would rival Stockholm: clean tall tower-blocks, motorways, new towns. The means mattered less than the ends. Smith and the omnipresent architect-developer, John Poulson, ended up in jail, for corruption.

The memory of Smith as the self-proclaimed Cock o' the North — and of his equivalent city bosses across Britain — is enough to make anyone pause before thinking that regional baronies are the answer. Such bosses had little need for aspirations other than their own: biggest was always best. A Labour spokesman recently confessed to me that he worries that if his party forms the next government, it will be off again, thinking that all it need do is build, build, build, like those old city bosses, as if bricks and mortar alone would create the New Jerusalem.

It sometimes seems that all that is left of Smith's flawed ambition is a Scandinavian-style City Hall in Newcastle, and depressed, workless Tyneside and Teesside towns linked by fast, empty roads. Newcastle vies with Manchester for the title of car thief capital of England. Cleveland (that is, Middlesbrough) is better known for child-abuse than for its old steel-making industry. But things are never so simple.

England has changed over the past generation in ways that men like Smith never foresaw. Undeniably, regional disparities exist. One yardstick of prosperity is that fewer people in the North have cars. One yardstick of achievement is that pupils do less well in their GCSEs. But on many measures, North and South have become more closely knit.

For innumerable northerners (myself included), the thing to do was simply to get out. There was room in the South. But the transformation of the economy from industry to services has changed all that. A third of school-leavers across Britain now take degree courses. Nowadays, not all graduates feel they have to take the next train to London. Jobs to suit them have grown up everywhere.

Measured in miles, the North may still be as far as ever from the South, but in hours, distances have shrunk. As a child in Yorkshire, I regarded a trip to London as a rare adventure. Now, from Leeds, London is one place to go for a Saturday night out. When Eurostar opens its northern service, Paris will fall into the same category. In *Our Friends in the North*, local councillors can be bribed by a trip to exotic Spain. The past is another country: it was much more parochial.

None of this means that England — or Britain — is no longer a nation divided against itself. It is just that the divide has shifted.

The great division now is between the suburbs and the city. (And, these days, small towns and the countryside are often a kind of suburb; people sleep there but work elsewhere.) The greatest poverty is in cities, whether North or South. And the greater the city, the greater the poverty.

Nowhere are the divisions deeper than in the capital. The 1995 edition of *Regional Trends* puts the average gross household income in London at almost £432 a week, a good £100 higher than in Yorkshire. (Remember that life in general, especially housing, is much cheaper in Yorkshire.) And yet London contains the three worst-off local authority areas in England: Newham, Southwark and Hackney. Several other London boroughs rate little better.

Recently I walked around parts of the North-East which reminded me of the worst tracts of the United States: desolate and despairing. Men stood by colliery gates watching the pithead being demolished. I went into the Meadow Well estate, outside North Shields, where rioting flared up in the summer of 1991 and has still not recovered from its wounds. No one should underestimate such social tragedies. The North, alas, still has plenty to grieve over.

But if you want to peer into what the social investigators of Victorian England called "the abyss", you must go into the dark heart of our cities. And, in particular, London. This is today's most painful divide.

The author is a senior fellow of the Institute of Community Studies.

THE CHIEF... LACK OF... UNAVAILABLE... OF COURT CASES, CONTRACTS... (Advertisement for legal services)

Lofty view

PIGEON-FANCIERS are in a flap about birds which get as high as — well, a pigeon. For the first time, the Royal Pigeon Racing Association is considering changing its rules to ban performance-enhancing substances.

Pigeons have long been suspected of drug-abuse, with fanciers slipping their birds cortisone to boost stamina and prevent moulting. The problem until now has been to catch them at it, but now developments on the Continent mean that drug tests can be carried out on droppings. Hitherto, any test would have required a blood test, risking the bird's life.

"The association has got as far as appointing a committee to look into the matter," says David Glover, editor of *British Homing World*. "The Belgian authorities have already put out a list of banned substances, and at least three fanciers there have been banned from racing."

There can be no suggestion that the association's most distinguished member indulges in such ungentlemanly behaviour. Drug-abuse is unknown in the smart new pigeon loft at Sandringham. And doubtless it is all-but free of droppings.

For all the huffing and puffing about One Nation Toryism, support in the party seems to be dwindling. The first One Nation



"It's out of date — the patients have all got beds"



dinner of the new session has been cancelled for lack of interest.

Would you buy...?

BRENT Borough Council wasn't the easiest vehicle to steer when it came to policy decisions, according to a former chief executive, Michael Birchard, who is now Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education and Employment. recalls in the *Times Educational Supplement* that a decision could be "taken and overturned two or three times in a week".

The saga of the deputy mayor's car proves his point, he says. On a Monday, members decided that the car should be done away with. On Tuesday, they changed their minds, but on Wednesday rever-

sed their decision. On Thursday, Birchard was instructed again to sell it. But the Labour group set a high sale price, hoping to keep the car. Birchard claims they hadn't reckoned with his skill as a used-car salesman. And to Labour's disgust, he sold it to the leader of a Conservative authority.

One of the more harmless obsessions of book-collectors is the pursuit of "association copies": books from the libraries of famous people, particularly other writers. This occasionally throws up peculiar conjunctions. But for bizarre, can anyone match an item currently on offer in Cecil Court in London: the first edition of James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* — with the ownership signature of the author of *Mary Poppins*?

Palace prize

AS the Princess of Wales bustles herself again with the plight of the homeless, architects are applying their minds to her own accommodation. The magazine *Building Design* has invited them to design her a new home. Offering £1,000 for the winning entry: to be judged by the panda-proportioned architect Will Alsop, the magazine says: "To cheer up Di in the new year, we want you to design an absolutely fabulous new



Béart: blooming awkward

Preparations for the gee-gees week in Cheltenham in March have stumbled at the first hurdle. Work started this week on erecting the mammoth tent village to accommodate thirty Irishmen and corporate punters, but yesterday John Artwood and Co, the trusty suppliers of the tentage and furniture, saw its warehouses go up in smoke. I am assured everything will still be set when the gun goes off for the Supreme Novices Hurdle.

Just possible

THESE ARE trying times for Tom Cruise. He has been dragged back unexpectedly to Pinewood to add some finishing touches to the feature film *Mission Impossible*, which he thought he had done with last year. The reshoot is proving a tougher assignment even than the most arduous stunts performed by his on-screen character.

His co-star, the agreeable French actress Emmanuelle Béart, is now very obviously pregnant, whereas she wasn't when filming started. "The cateramens are using all their ingenuity to film her so that it doesn't show," says a stagehand.

Béart: blooming awkward

P.H.S



THE CHIEF STOKER

Thatcher's challenge to the Conservative Party

Happiness is not a word that springs naturally to mind when contemplating the Tory party in its present doldrums. Happy, nonetheless, is any party that has core beliefs in which it can take pride, and a statesman who can articulate them with the conviction that Baroness Thatcher brought to the Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture yesterday. Labour, whose task is, as Tony Blair understands, to reinvent itself, can call upon no such stimulus; and stimulation was consciously what Lady Thatcher set out yesterday to provide.

John Major, of course, is not looking for stimulus over the coming months, quite the reverse. Barely 36 months after he had produced his own cautious strategy for the next election, his predecessor proposed ideas that could hardly have been more different. The Major approach, set out at a breakfast with businessmen on Wednesday, is to find a consensus position, however limited, around which his party can unite, a position based on past economic successes, future economic prospects and the threat that Labour will destroy both. The Thatcher alternative is to confront the party left across a broad range of policies, Europe, public spending, taxation and crime, disdaining unity as an end in itself and creating a position that most clearly differentiates the Tories from Labour.

For months now Mr Major has been calling for a One Nation Conservative Party and a rally on the centre ground, where right and left-wing rebels would march back together into the party tent. Yesterday Lady Thatcher described One Nation Tories as No Nation Tories and the centre ground as a slippery place inhabited by unprincipled spin-doctors. And she said it all with a certain nostalgia, as though she alone was now saying what needed constantly to be said. She praised the "habits of freedom" underpinned by sound institutions which appealed to Britain's shared instincts and traditions. Conservatives, she said, needed no lectures about society — about "the importance of custom, convention, tradition, belief, national institutions or what the ancient Romans would describe as 'piety'."

She made clear that the modern party now lacked the intellectual certainties and philosophical voices that she and Keith Joseph had provided. Mr Major's Conservatives had sought the middle ground but they had not united the party and had lost the middle class on which their power depended.

Lady Thatcher's historical analysis is a persuasive one. She did succeed in cowering her party into unity for a very long time. Her audience at the Centre for Policy Studies last night contained many who remember the arrogant pragmatism of the "wets" in her first Cabinet and the way in which they were one by one defeated. She praised individually Michael Portillo, Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and John Redwood — but it is they who are now the minority, the Right which is now isolated in Cabinet on so many issues and the Right which was outmanoeuvred and defeated in last year's leadership election. Mr Major's spin-doctors have, indeed, colonised a small patch of centre ground for him to begin his attack on Labour: but he has given them no choice.

Indeed, Mr Major might have expected worse. True, she did not give him overmuch praise. But she did not seek to bury him. There was scathing dismissal of those, mostly on the Right of the party, who have hinted that a spell in Opposition was the only hope. The attractions of Opposition, she remarked, were "greatly exaggerated by those who have not experienced it". She praised Lord Joseph for his revolt against the Heath Government, but contrasted Mr Major favourably with the man whose policies she had so successfully upturned.

This speech should not be the wounding blow that some Tories feared and Labour hoped. It was essentially a lecture in the grand style, designed to keep alive the party's principles of Gladstonian liberalism, its roots in the individualism inherited from Erasmus, Hume and Adam Smith. One day, those principles will again unite and invigorate it. All parties long in power, as she observed, have to make sure that they do not run out of steam; in office, she had always regarded it as part of her job to be "Chief Stoker". She is stoking still.

LACK OF SLACK

Health reform should not mean higher risk

A 65-year-old man dies in hospital in Scarborough after being flown by helicopter 80 miles from Bradford, where a doctor's staff had struggled for several hours to find a bed closer at hand. In a Liverpool hospital, 35 patients spend the day on trolleys in the accident and emergency department, one of them for 22 hours. While the reforms of the health service gradually deliver shorter hospital waiting lists and a more efficient use of NHS resources, the flow of cases which require desperate search for scarce beds has not stopped.

Must reform mean risk? The political phrases which pour forth each bed shortage drama obscure several simple truths. The imbalances between supply and demand in the volatile and expensive "acute" sector revealed by these cases do not throw the principle of pursuing efficient healthcare into doubt. Two quite distinct areas of hospital administration are under pressure: provision of highly specialised intensive care beds and capacity for accident and emergency admissions, mostly in big city hospitals.

To lump every complaint over shortage in the NHS into one allegation that a sacred principle is being trampled on, as Labour's health spokeswoman Harriet Harman did yesterday, is a breathtaking refusal to look the facts in the face. This week's cases revealed that a fundamental principle was under threat, she said: "that when you fall ill and you need treatment you get it when you need it." No government, as Ms Harman is well aware, can operate the NHS on that basis; it would be agreeing to meet all

demands made of it, however high they rise. The Government has already uneasily admitted that the pressures on intensive care, accident and emergency departments are a problem. Last March the Health Secretary agreed to review intensive care after a clutch of problems were revealed. This week, the Department of Health circulated best practice guidelines and permission for some casualty work to be done by lesser-qualified staff in an attempt to ease the effects of staff shortages.

Demand is rising. The British Medical Association found that emergency admissions to hospitals had risen by 13 per cent in the four years to mid-1994 and more than 6 per cent last year. The reasons for the rise are debated but the increase is undeniable. This change has coincided with a higher occupancy rate for hospital beds and a remorseless and highly successful drive to cut waiting lists for non-urgent operations. If the Government is to prevent reasonable public concern over very ill patients being shuttled around the country from undercutting its long-haul reform of the NHS, ministers must show that they have not simply ended long waits for hip replacements by extending the delays in casualty departments.

The DoH yesterday invited one of its retired Chief Medical Officers to look at how GPs grapple with hospital shortages. He might usefully consider extending London's emergency clearing service for hospital beds to areas such as Yorkshire and the North West where other tragedies seem otherwise ready to happen.

UNAVAILABLE VENABLES

Of court cases, contracts, cups and coaches

No theme will be discussed in pubs tonight with as much verve as that of Terry Venables. The coach of the England football team — to inform those who have only just returned from the Moon — has declared that he will be unavailable to coach the national side after the end of the European Championship later this year. This has provoked a predictable cascade of passion and punditry. Is he right? Is he wrong? Should he? Shouldn't he? Why? Why not?

Apart from his record to date — played 14, only six won — Mr Venables is no ordinary coach. Allegations about his business affairs hang over his head like a swarm of gnats: indeed, that swarm was there in force when the Football Association chose him for the coach's job in 1994. His diary this year is as crowded with unfriendly fixtures as the law courts as it is with football matches. That, in fact, is one reason that he has decided to give up the day-job after Euro '96. England will then begin the arduous yomp to qualify for the next World Cup, and Mr Venables thinks that his appointments with the judiciary will stop him from giving England's footballers the attention they deserve.

He is right, of course, even though the fuss ignores a simple fact: Mr Venables promises that he will give up his England job at the end of the summer, at precisely the time when his contract expires. There is no guarantee that the FA would have kept him on: current form suggests that it would not. If the "Unavailable Venables" story has caused a storm, it is, largely, a storm in a football cup.

The FA should not have picked him to begin with: he did not come with a "controversy-free" guarantee, and was not even the most skilled man for the job. His appointment was born more of desperation than of clear thought. Gerry Francis would have been more appropriate than Mr Venables: he must be in the running again. Mr Francis has always enjoyed the voice of our own football correspondent, for his knack of making a silk purse out of a sow's ear — exactly what English football seems at present to need.

Make no mistake, however: Mr Venables is not a bad coach. Our footballers have his company till the end of the season, and to the end of an important continental campaign. It is in their interest that the coach, having made up his mind about his future, be allowed to shepherd them in the manner that he thinks best. Mr Venables may have his battles in the court later. Three cases of libel and one for wrongful dismissal are enough to drive the stoutest of men to distraction. But before the judge's gavel comes down, let us allow him to win the European Championship for England... or try.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

China's record in dealing with unwanted children

From Mrs N. A. Vale

Sir, The treatment of defenceless babies and children shown last night in *Return to the Dying Rooms* (review, January 10; reports, January 9, 10) is the most wretched, despicable and pitiful that I or, I am sure, anyone else watching the programme have ever seen.

May the members of China's Government never have a moment's peace until these atrocities are at least under control and the situations in the orphanages fully monitored.

Yours faithfully,

N. A. VALE, Pike Hill Cottage, 9 Linthorpe Road, Blackwell, Birmingham, January 10.

From Dr David Bellamy, President, Population Concern

Sir, The report which you published on January 10 intimated that I was in favour of the "dying rooms" scenario in China. On the contrary I abhor what is happening and told your correspondent that the heart of the awful tragedy of the death of children in orphanages in China lies in the culture of son-preference and the inequality of the girl-child. Healthy boys are not being victimised in the dying rooms.

Son-preference and discrimination against girl children permeates societies in other parts of Asia, and has other forms of expression across the world. Why else have two major world conferences, the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Peking last September and the World Confer-

ence on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 urged development, including sexual and reproductive rights, to be centred on raising the status and equality of women and girls?

There can be no more poignant demonstration than this example from China of the truth that we must measure a society by the position of women within it.

Yours faithfully, DAVID BELLAMY, President, Population Concern, 178 Great Portland Street, W1, January 10.

From Mr Jack Shapiro

Sir, The Chinese authorities cannot win. In 1994 the New York-based Human Rights Watch group determined to indict China for human rights conventions, issued a report on incidents that had taken place in a Shanghai orphanage between 1988 and 1992. These incidents were drawn to the attention of the authorities, who then investigated them, and the situation was remedied.

Two days ago, when your correspondent, James Pringle visited the orphanage in question, he could find little to criticise (report, January 9). Naturally, the Chinese authorities are now accused of "dressing up" the orphanage to impress visitors.

Orphanages in any country are places where unwanted children are deposited by parents or authorities, and the buildings, care and facilities vary enormously. This is true in China as in Britain. But the fact is that the Chinese re-

cord in the care of orphans is undoubted. On many visits to China between 1963 and 1992 I have been privileged to see the excellent care and attention given to the young orphans, many of whom today occupy positions of importance.

Yours truly, JACK SHAPIRO, 100 Brim Hill, N2, January 10.

From Mr Beauman Chong

Sir, What do we associate China with these days? Human rights issues and dying rooms for baby orphans. In 1997 Britain will be handing over the six million hard-working Hong Kong people to the communist dictatorship from which many of them escaped.

How could the British do such a thing?

Yours faithfully, B. CHONG, 102 Greenhill Road, Winchester, Hampshire, January 9.

From Mr J. P. Dickinson

Sir, I suggest that one way in which parents and grandparents can register their disgust at the Chinese authorities' inhuman treatment of unwanted children is to stop buying any toys made in China.

Yours faithfully, J. P. DICKINSON, 52 Lansdown Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, January 10.

Minority rights

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, In suggesting that minorities here have been "oppressed for generations" Mr Geoffrey Bindman (letter, January 3) maligns the people of this country.

Until quite recently, England was ethnically homogeneous. Minorities (including my parents' generation of Russian Jews) made their way here precisely because this is one of the fairest, most open-minded polities in the world — and I state this from first-hand knowledge of many. Otherwise they would not have come, or stayed on.

Professor Roger Scruton, in his article of December 21, rightly condemned the European Court's ruling that gypsies should enjoy special rights over and above others. That ruling, in my view, is a recipe for resentment and conflict.

The lavishness of privileges on minorities, particularly by left-wing local authorities motivated by anti-democratic creeds — euphemised as "prioritisation", ie, favouritism — antagonises the indigenous population, particularly less-advantaged strata, provoking them to feel that they are being treated as second-class citizens in their own land and sowing the seeds of conflict.

At all times and places, in democracies as elsewhere, minorities depend in the last resort on the goodwill of the majority. Those who take minorities' name in vain for purposes of political axe-grinding do them no favour.

Yours sincerely,

ALFRED SHERMAN, 14 Malvern Court, Onslow Square, SW7, January 4.

BBC bias?

From Lord Thomson of Monifieth

Sir, On January 9, the House of Lords had a major debate on the BBC Charter. Apart from three frontbenchers, 33 backbench peers spoke. One of the latter, Viscount Caldecote, moved an amendment critical of the performance of the BBC governors in meeting their responsibilities.

This morning's BBC2 news programme, *The Record*, included only three backbench peers in its report. All three were former governors of the BBC. Due impartiality as laid down in the new Charter?

Yours sincerely, GEORGE THOMSON (Liberal Democrat Spokesman on Broadcasting), House of Lords, January 10.

Darwin's finch

From Professor Emeritus A. J. Brook, FRSE

Sir, The report (January 5) of the finch recently found in a Melbourne museum states that the specimen and that of a topazolo were "almost certainly tagged and preserved by Charles Darwin on his voyage round South America in the 1830s".

Darwin and the Beagle visited Australia between January 12 and March 14, 1836, on the way home from South America and the Galapagos Islands. He returned to England, never to leave her shores again, on October 2, 1836. Hence the Melbourne museum specimens must have been labelled, probably in London, when he was sorting through his collections after his return.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Trading failures

From Mr I. D. Bruce

Sir, Professor Kennaway grumbles (letter, January 4) that manufacturing industry has not invested sufficiently in R&D and design. However, weakness in innovation and its commercialisation is a problem in all areas of the economy, in services as well as manufacturing.

One explanation of why the US economy is so much more vibrant and innovative than ours is the presence there, and absence here, of strong competition law. In America no businessman in his right mind will indulge in anti-competitive behaviour for fear of ruinous fines on his company and jail for himself under the anti-trust laws.

British companies trading in Europe do face heavy fines under European law if they break the competition-law provisions of the Treaty of Rome: but for those who trade solely within the UK (a substantial majority) no such sanctions exist.

Recording evidence

From Mrs Mary Symes

Sir, As I have been retd for more than 20 years from my position as clerk to justices for five petty sessions divisions in Suffolk I do not lightly take issue with Judge Anthony Thorpe (letter, January 3) who says that "in trial by lay justices the evidence is not recorded".

However, during the 37 years that I served in this office, I recorded in longhand the evidence in all contested cases. On several occasions the judge hearing an appeal called for my minute book to settle a disputed fact.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant. MARY SYMES, Leiston Old Abbey, Leiston, Suffolk, January 4.

Adventurous Ashford

From Mr Martin L. Turner

Sir, I must take issue with your leading article of January 9, "Rail romance revived", which said that "Ashford should rejoice in being put on the railway map", and that Nick Derbyshire, the architect of the new station, "has added Ashford to a list of towns spawned and enriched by the railways".

Enriched, hopefully, but definitely not spawned. This is a chance to rejuvenate a very old-established railway town. The railway came to Ashford in 1843, and the locomotive, carriage and wagon works was in business contin-

uously from 1848 for more than 130 years. There is still a busy maintenance depot in the town.

Crews were only a modest railway junction with no town in 1840 and its railway works opened only five years before Ashford's. York was established as a railway town only a few years earlier than that.

Notwithstanding this, I agree that Ashford International is both an exciting development and opportunity for the future.

Yours faithfully, MARTIN L. TURNER, Heathway, Chapel Road, Hothfield Common, Ashford, Kent, January 10.

No-fault divorce

From Mr Geoffrey N. Dence

Sir, In his letter today on the Family Law Bill, Sir Bryan Thwaites urges MPs to take heed of the Roman Catholic bishops' statement whilst formulating legislation.

More people get married in a register office than a church, and there are more people who do not practise religion than those who do.

I hope our Members of Parliament are not unduly influenced by a minority opinion no matter how much it is favoured by the media.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY N. DENCE, The Firs, East Grimstead, Salisbury, Wiltshire, January 11.

Desmond and James Moore, record that

At the zoo's headquarters in Leicester Square, he presented 80 mammals and 450 birds to the Society... He had no sense of a single, closely related group becoming specialised and adapted to different environmental niches. The birds did not even seem that important when he donated them... rather badly labelled...

The expert he turned them over to was the ornithologist, artist and taxidermist John Gould (who was about to publish his *Birds of Australia*). By the next meeting, on the 10th — only six days later — Gould had linked them as "a series of ground Finches which are so peculiar" as to form "an entirely new group, containing 12 species"...

Darwin's birds and mammals were set out for display, and reporters from the dailies heard Gould's news. The papers ran the story...

Maybe press coverage is nothing new for this finch.

Yours faithfully, IAN LEITCH, 121 Abbots Drive, North Wembley, Middlesex.

Sir, The preserved finch in the vaults of the Museum of Victoria appears to have been presented by Charles Darwin to the Zoological Society of London on January 4, 1837. In *Darwin* (pp208-210) his biographers, Adrian

Perils and joys of a big lottery win

From Mr Hunter Davies

Sir, What proof has the solicitor, Mr Howard Epstein (letter, January 9), that the bigger the lottery win, the more chance of unhappiness? I know he has worked for one of the Blackburn couple who won £18 million, but he is generalising from that one very particular case.

I have just finished a book (due out in the autumn) about the first year of the National Lottery in which I have followed ten major winners over the first year of their win. These wins affected the lives of 24 individuals, to whom I have talked at length. Only one is less happy than he was before his win. Camelot's own researches indicate that 99 per cent of jackpot winners are happy with their win.

I suspect Mr Epstein has fallen for the consolatory myth that every lottery winner ends up unhappy, which is what all non-winners like to believe, especially after this weekend.

Yours, HUNTER DAVIES, c/o Cobblers Cove, Barbados, January 7.

From Mr Michael Alford

Sir, If happiness could be measured on a pair of scales, would not the sum of 80 prizes at £500,000 defeat the laws of mathematics by exceeding the weight of one of £40 million?

Yours sincerely, M. ALFORD, 5 Arundel Terrace, Kemp Town, Brighton, Sussex, January 9.

From Mr Arnold Palmer

Sir, My wife, who last Saturday afternoon tried to buy a lottery ticket at our local newsagents, was told by a female junior assistant: "Our machine has broken down due to the nation's greed, madam."

Yours truly, A. PULVER, 6 Howton Place, Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, January 8.

Charity mailshots

From Mr Freddy Kosten

Sir, The remedies that Eileen Bushell seeks against intrusive mailshots (letter, January 8) are already available to her via the Data Protection Act since, as Russell Vallance points out in his adjoining letter, computer technology is normally involved.

She can certainly insist that her "identity and personal details are not passed or sold to other charities", and indeed should have been alerted to this option by the charity involved; similarly, she can instruct the charity to send her no direct mail.

Any charity, or other "data user", in breach of such instructions could face enforcement action by the Data Protection Registrar.

Yours etc, FREDDY KOSTEN, Co-editor, *Data Protection News*, Hoskyns Group plc, City House, 190 City Road, ECI, January 9.

MoD move

From Mrs Jackie Morley

Sir, So Mr E. C. Baker (letter, January 11) does not like the relocation terms for MoD staff moving from London to Bristol.

As an RAF wife of 22 years, having had 15 involuntary moves all over the world and four by choice (a modest military total), I would quite like £25,000 "relocation expenses".

Yours faithfully, JACKIE MORLEY, 54 Greenwood, Walters Ash, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Mobile menace

From Mrs Sue Johns

Sir, May I suggest, that at the same time as installing the "No Talking" carriage (Canon Southwell-Sander's letter, January 10), the railways also provide some "old groups only" coaches. Since Race (letter, January 8) and the canon could then enjoy each other's company in silence.

Sincerely, SUE JOHNS, 89 Westhurst Drive, Chislehurst, Kent, January 10.

From Mr R. B. Waterhouse

Sir, On the Japanese train, the Shinkansen, mobile phones may only be used in the areas at the ends of coaches. Payphones are also available there.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT WATERHOUSE, 20 Heather Lea Avenue, Dore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, January 10.

From Mr T. R. Murton

Sir, "No Talking" carriages are an attractive idea, but as a frequent late-night traveller from Victoria, the introduction of "No Eating" carriages would be my priority.

Yours faithfully, ROGER MURTON, 7 Royal Crescent, Brighton, Sussex, January 10.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 11: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Prince of Wales at the Memorial Service for Monsieur Francois Mitterrand...



Cavaliere Giovanni Gucco, chief mosaicist at St Mark's, Venice, examining one of the mosaics on the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gore...

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 11: The Prince of Wales received the Rt Hon John Gummer MP (Secretary of State for the Environment)...

Birthdays today

Miss Kirstie Allen, actress, 41; Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 48; Mr Ernest Armstrong, former MP, 81; Miss Hazel Aronson, QC, Sheriff of Lothian and Borders at Edinburgh...

Memorial services

Lord Abernethy, Lady Acker, Lord Brougham and Vaux, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Lord and Lady Bessborough, Baroness Carnegy...

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as president, will attend a display of Prince's Youth Business Trust businesses in The Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, at 10.20; will view city centre developments from 11.20; will visit the Law Courts, Castlegate at 12.25...

Service dinner

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host at a dinner held last night on board the flagship HMS Victory, Portsmouth Naval Base...

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Robin Mann, Rector, Wyre Forest West Group of Churches (Worcestershire) to be Rector, Avon Valley (Salisbury)...

Lord Harris of Peckham

The life barony conferred upon Sir Philip Charles Harris, Knight, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Harris of Peckham, of Peckham in the London Borough of Southwark.

Latest wills

Mr Alan Vyvyan Symons, of High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire, former deputy chairman of the Carrington Villa Group and previously chairman of the Carrington Villa Football Club...

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: John Winthrop, Puritan and 1st Governor of Massachusetts, 1588; Edmund Burke, statesman, Dublin, 1731; Johann Sebastian Bach, composer, 1700; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, Florence, 1856; Sir Charles Oman, historian, Muzaffarpur, India, 1860; Jack London, novelist, San Francisco, 1876; Ferenc Molnar, dramatist, Budapest, 1878; Curbastron, Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, Italy, 1853; Hermann Goering, Nazi war criminal, Bavaria, 1893; Georges Carpentier, boxer, Calais, 1894.

Birmingham Society

The following have been elected Officers of the Birmingham Society for 1986: Sir Peter Wright, Mr R.N. Mapp, Mr J.E. Bennett, Mr Donald Bromberg, Mr Robert E. Sims, Mr J. Taylor, Mr J. Freeman, Mr Bill Turner, Mr G. Pugh, Mr C.W. Allen and Mr R.G. Bartlett.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.E. Androne and Miss L.J. Beer
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of the late Mr John Androne and of Mrs Androne, of Yattendon, Berkshire, and Lisa Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Beer, of Bly, Cambridgeshire.

Marriages

The marriage took place on December 16, in Bideford, by Canon Mr Roy Mitchell, son of Mr and Mrs Matthew Mitchell, of Norfolk, and Miss Miriam Finch, daughter of the late Mr John Finch, FRCS, and of Mrs Murray Johnson. The Rev Brian Melbourne officiated.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS
BASSON-SMITH - On January 10, 1986, at St. George's Hospital, London, after a long illness, Mrs. Joan Basson-Smith, nee Jones, aged 82 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Jones, of 15, St. George's Road, London N16 7JH. Burial at St. George's Church, London N16 7JH, on January 13, 1986, at 11.30 a.m.

DEATHS
EDWARDS - John Basil Edwards, 82, died on January 10, 1986, at St. George's Hospital, London. He was the husband of Mrs. Edith Edwards, nee Jones, of 15, St. George's Road, London N16 7JH. Burial at St. George's Church, London N16 7JH, on January 13, 1986, at 11.30 a.m.

DEATHS
HOLLOWAY - Michael, 65, died on January 10, 1986, at St. George's Hospital, London. He was the husband of Mrs. Margaret Holloway, nee Jones, of 15, St. George's Road, London N16 7JH. Burial at St. George's Church, London N16 7JH, on January 13, 1986, at 11.30 a.m.

DEATHS
WILLIAMS - Mrs. Mary Williams, 82, died on January 10, 1986, at St. George's Hospital, London. She was the wife of Mr. John Williams, of 15, St. George's Road, London N16 7JH. Burial at St. George's Church, London N16 7JH, on January 13, 1986, at 11.30 a.m.

PERSONAL COLUMN sidebar containing various advertisements including 'TICKETS FOR SALE', 'FLATSHARE', 'SERVICES', 'MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS', 'ALL TICKETS', 'FLIGHTS', 'TUITION & COURSES', and 'TRAINING'.

OBITUARIES

MARION WILBERFORCE

Marion Wilberforce, aviatrix, died on December 17 aged 93. She was born on July 22, 1902.

ONE of the first eight women pilots to be recruited by the Air Transport Auxiliary in 1940, Marion Wilberforce was the quintessential "Angli": resourceful, daring and skilled, with more than a touch of eccentricity in her make-up. The ATA's role, largely unsung at the time against the backdrop of the desperate battles taking place in the air throughout the summer and autumn of 1940, was the ferrying of new aircraft from the factories to the squadrons which needed them.

This work was originally done by men, generally pilots who were not fully fit for operational flying and were hence regarded as "Ancient and Tattered Airmen". Besides, at the outbreak of war the prejudice against women flyers was strong. No one thought of using the pool of feminine talent which had been built up in that golden age of private flying between the wars, when handsome and well-to-do young women gallivanted about the skies of Europe, dropping in on garden parties in Berlin, Stockholm and Budapest. Continental aero clubs threw lavish summer entertainments and the Burgomaster of many a central European capital marshalled the full resources of his entertainment budget to make sure that his fair guests took home good reports of their treatment.

Even after war broke out and the losses of good aircrew in such futile operations as the leaflet drops over Germany (in unarmed Blenheim bombers) began to mean that the fitness state of the Ancient and Tattered Airmen had to be revised upwards so that they could fly operational sorties, there was still a reluctance to employ manifestly well-qualified women. Once the barriers had been broken down, however, and women were admitted to ferrying duties, they soon proved their worth.

Flexibility was the hallmark of these pilots. If, for example, an ATA aviatrix qualified on Class 4 (twin-engine) aircraft, she would be expected to cope with anything from that "flying coffin" the Hampden, through the nimble Mosquito to (later in the war) the twin-jet Meteor interceptor. And many a bomber squadron commander awaiting a new delivery to replace operational losses was astonished, as a Lancaster bomber rolled to a halt on his runway, to see a petite, svelte figure climb from the cockpit, take off her



The first of the "Atagirls", Marion Wilberforce second from left, standing

flying helmet and shake out her hair. Marion Wilberforce was one of seven children of John Ogilvie-Forbes, the 9th Laird of Boydnie, Aberdeenshire, and a man of renowned and granite-like toughness. Originally intended for the Anglican priesthood, he had converted to Roman Catholicism and became a papal Privy Chamberlain. She received her education from French governesses and at the Convent of Jesus and Mary, Stony Stratford. From there she went to Somerville College, Oxford, where she took a degree in agriculture in 1922.

At Oxford she took a keen interest in sports: she was an accomplished exponent of judo and was a member of the women's mountaineering team. She also acted in the productions of the university's French Club.

In 1932 she married Robert Wilberforce, although this union was for always a foregone conclusion. Her husband-to-be was for some time

undecided between the state of matrimony and a vocation to the priesthood, eventually deciding to test the strength of the latter by spending six months in a monastery. When this period was over Marion was at the monastery gates to collect him. She, meanwhile, had begun a career in London, on a field sports magazine, and began flying, encouraged by her two brothers. Her own first aircraft was a de Havilland Cirrus Moth from which she graduated to the Hornet Moth. In these aircraft, which she used to ferry livestock to and from her Essex farm, Nevendon Manor, sometimes from as far afield as Hungary, she had notched up 900 hours by 1940.

From 1929 she had also taken a keen interest in the work of the Fairbridge charity whose aim was to take orphaned children from overcrowded British cities and find them homes in agricultural communities in the Dominions. In the late 1920s and early 1930s she visited Canada

and Australia to look over farm schools there. She continued her involvement in the Fairbridge Farm Schools until late in her life. Having no children herself, she often had Fairbridge children to stay with her for extended periods.

When the ATA, which was formed on the outbreak of war, began to find itself short of pilots, at first the option of using women was not even considered, and the RAF went so far as to hire foreign aviators — at greatly inflated wages. Then resistance to the obvious solution finally crumbled and the first eight women — including Marion Wilberforce — were recruited, in January 1940. This was done in a blaze of publicity — largely unsought — which was not entirely beneficial. In Germany, Lord Haw-Haw made much snide propaganda from the fact that the British were apparently reduced to sending their womenfolk to fly vicious fighting planes which they unattractively and decadent women would doubt-

less enjoy". And in RAF messes the reception was often little more sympathetic.

At first Anglirs were not permitted to fly combat aircraft, but that bureaucratic rule soon became untenable, and by mid-1941 Marion Wilberforce was piloting Hurricanes and Spitfires. From fighters she graduated to twin-engine bombers and then to the four-engine Lancaster, Halifax and Stirling. By the end of the war she had flown well over a hundred different types of aircraft. In a single day she might ferry as many as four different aircraft.

It was very far from being routine work: the pilot had to do all her own navigation and the requirement to keep the embattled squadrons replenished meant that deliveries had to be undertaken in all weathers: cloud, rain, fog, snow and treacherous icing conditions. The celebrated press aviatrix Amy Johnson, who had joined ATA, perished in just such circumstances when the engine of an aircraft she was delivering failed and she came down in the freezing waters of the Thames.

In addition to flying, Marion Wilberforce was deputy commanding officer and then CO of the Hatfield Ferry Pool, and in 1943 became commander of No 12 Ferry Pool at Costford. The extra administration this involved meant little abatement in the volume of her flying duties.

At the end of the war she declined appointment as MBE, but carried on flying in her Hornet Moth biplane. The skies had by then become more regulated, yet her exploits were almost redolent of the more happy-go-lucky age of aviation in which she had grown up. She flew about the British Isles visiting friends and then, if bored, might decide to lunch in Luxembourg or take in an evening performance at the Vienna Staatsoper. Once, she strayed out of Austria into Czechoslovak air space, drawing fire from trigger-happy frontier anti-aircraft batteries. On another occasion she visited her brother Neil in Moscow, flying herself to Helsinki but being compelled to be a passenger for the remainder of the journey.

Only in her eighties did she give up flying. By that time, reluctantly, she had to get rid of the second of her Hornet Moths. Originally bought from an Aberdeen butcher, it found a home with an Australian sheep farmer. When her husband died in 1984, Marion Wilberforce returned to Boydnie to live with her brother.

GORDON ADAM

Gordon Adam, a former general manager and director of Barclays Bank, died in Switzerland on December 27 aged 68. He was born on December 21, 1927.



A QUIETLY prominent personality in the discreet profession of banking, Gordon Adam followed an eminent career with Barclays. As he rose through the ranks, his patient integrity and conscientiousness combined with a substantial experience in both the UK and in the international arm of the bank earned him a position as a director of the UK bank, as well as chairman of Barclays International Development Fund, and chairman of the International Trust Group.

David Stuart Gordon Adam was born in Belfast, but spent his early years in Canada where his father, an Ulsterman, was working as a naval architect. He was educated at Upper Canada College, before returning to the UK to take law degrees at Queen's University, Belfast, and Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Winning an exhibition and later a scholarship, he was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1951. But he left the law after extended service as a judge's clerk with two outstanding Queen's Bench judges, Mr Justice Hilbery and Mr Justice Streetfield. After two years, 1952-53, at the War Office he turned to banking, joining Barclays in 1954.

After a year's grounding experience at head office he was sent to Southern and Central Africa with the inter-

national arm of the bank before returning to a succession of increasingly more senior posts in Leeds and Manchester. He became a general manager in 1968.

Harvard Business School followed in the spring of 1969, and in his subsequent career with Barclays he filled a number of prominent positions in which, always seeking the highest standards himself, he exacted them too from those with whom he worked. Adam also served for five years on the council of the CBI and, after retirement from Barclays, became a director of the merchant bank Henry Ansbacher & Co in 1989.

Adam was equally active outside his banking career, notably as a governor of Wycombe Abbey School for 20 years and chairman of its council from 1981 to 1991. His term of office was marked by a steady progress, both academic and administrative.

Adam is survived by his wife Rosanne, and by their two sons and daughter.

KENNETH NEVE

Kenneth Neve, OBE, industrialist and vintage car enthusiast, died on January 1 aged 84. He was born on April 19, 1911.

roadholding speed and performance.

After the war Neve was one of the first people to take single cylinder motorcycle engines and incorporate them in cars. It was a relatively cheap way of indulging a passion for racing, and though Neve was an amateur, professionals such as Stirling Moss were later to take a leaf out of his book and follow this jockey but practical idea.

But Neve's favourite racing car was a 1914 TT Humber which he found laid up in Wales, and restored to working order, running it in Edwardian events of the VSCC for some 35 years.

In 1960 Neve's enthusiasm for vintage cars was recognised by his election to the presidency of the VSCC for three years and, though his interests always remained more in the workshop than in administration, he proved himself a meticulous historian of motoring.

In 1977, to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations, Neve re-named the 1911 Rolls-Royce run in top-gear from London to Edinburgh. He fully rebuilt the 1911 car himself and drove from one capital to the other.

Neve set down his recollections of his lifetime hobby in his book *A Bit Behind The Times* (1988). In his last years he worked to complete a 4ft model of a steam tug boat which he had begun in 1929 but never finished.

His wife Jo, whom he married in 1938, predeceased him. He is survived by a daughter.

After an apprenticeship with Vickers Armstrong, Neve joined the firm of Turner & Newell, then asbestos manufacturers, and remained there until his retirement in 1972. That same year he was appointed OBE for his services to exports. But in his spare time he indulged his passion for vintage motor cars. Before the war he raced at Brooklands, at first on a home-made motorcycle, then with a Brough Superior, the finest motorbike of its day, with a powerful twin JAP engine capable of reaching speeds of up to 100mph.

In 1935 Neve branched out, turning to cars of many makes. As a member of the Vintage Sports Car Club (VSCC) he took part in speed and mud trials with a 30-98 Vauxhall a fine machine with open body, stretching bonnet and sweeping mudguards, then considered one of Britain's top sports cars. He drove this car everywhere, and his daughter was always to recall annual holidays to Cheshire and Cornwall when she would be squashed into a small sideways-facing seat at the back and instructed to keep an eye peeled for predatory policemen while a trailer carrying another car bounced and jumped along behind.

Neve also raced a grand prix Bugatti as well as rebuilding a Frazer Nash, a fine old car which was driven by chain rather than shaft drive. He adapted it to improve its

three years and, though his interests always remained more in the workshop than in administration, he proved himself a meticulous historian of motoring.

In 1977, to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations, Neve re-named the 1911 Rolls-Royce run in top-gear from London to Edinburgh. He fully rebuilt the 1911 car himself and drove from one capital to the other.

Neve set down his recollections of his lifetime hobby in his book *A Bit Behind The Times* (1988). In his last years he worked to complete a 4ft model of a steam tug boat which he had begun in 1929 but never finished.

His wife Jo, whom he married in 1938, predeceased him. He is survived by a daughter.

GEOFFREY PARDOE

Geoffrey Pardoe, consultant engineer, died of a heart attack on January 3 aged 67. He was born on November 2, 1928.

FOR almost 40 years Geoffrey Pardoe was a leading figure in space exploration, never faltering in the belief that space offered great opportunities, most of which were being missed by the British Government. He was project manager of Blue Streak, a missile that worked well but was cancelled on the ground of cost, and which later formed the first stage of an abortive attempt to develop a European satellite launcher.

Later he became known to a wider public through his commentaries on the Apollo space launches and articles, including some in *The Times*, arguing for a coherent space policy.

Pardoe was no narrow specialist. In 1986 he was appointed chairman of the Waz Committee on Energy, a charity formed to promote the improved understanding of energy generation and use. He participated in many professional bodies, where his convivial manner and clarity of expression made him a natural leader.

Geoffrey Pardoe was educated at Warstead County High School, London University and Loughborough College of Technology (as it then was) where he was a successful athlete. He began his career at Armstrong Whitworth, where he was responsible for the first British guided missile. Seasing, He moved to de Havilland Propellers in 1951, where he was in charge of aerodynamics and

flight analysis of Firestreak and other air-to-air weapons.

In 1957 he was appointed project manager of Blue Streak, a ballistic missile powered by Rolls-Royce rocket engines. After the cancellation of the programme, Britain attempted to salvage some benefit by proposing Blue Streak as the first stage of a launcher to be built by the seven-nation European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO).

France provided the second stage, Germany the third, Italy the test satellites, Belgium the ground station and The Netherlands the telemetry links. What followed was a tragicomic series of failures as one by one the different stages — though not Blue Streak — failed to operate. Finally, after the third stage had failed in the final launch attempt at Woomera, the UK withdrew.

Geoffrey Pardoe bitterly regretted the decision. For the sake of saving the ELDO contribution of £9 million a year, barely more than was spent annually on fireworks, he feared that "we shall be out of any real space programmes for ever".

Pardoe became chief executive director of the British Space Development Company and subsequently formed his own consultancy, General Technology Systems, based first in Brentford and later at Brunel Science Park in Uxbridge. GTS worked in more than 60 countries, in the fields of aerospace energy, information technology, communications, microelectronics, defence, remote sensing, innovation and technology transfer.

Pardoe was always eager to communicate knowledge, not only to his peers but also to a general audience, and for many years was the first person journalists thought of when they needed guidance over space stories. He campaigned consistently for a British presence in space, regretting that the decisions taken in the 1960s had handed leadership in Europe to the French.

Over the years he appeared in nearly 2,000 radio and television interviews in several countries — he was fluent in French and German. Among his publications, *The Future of Space Technology*, published in 1984, will perhaps be best remembered.

As president of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1984-85, he was appointed the society's representative on the Waz committee, of which he soon became chairman. He was active in many other organisations, including the National Industrial Space Committee, and he was a former president of the Space Education Trust.

In all these bodies and others, he argued that those with knowledge and ability have the duty to use them for the solution of problems. Despite the many frustrations of championing ideas that successive governments found unpalatable or too expensive, he remained cordial and optimistic. He died suddenly and unexpectedly when on a business trip to Kansas.

He leaves a widow, Patricia, and a son and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE
HOUSE: 4 bed, 2 bath, 10 ft sq. 20,000 Cash only. Call 01753 22222

THE TRADER: 1971-1988 other... Call 01753 22222

RENTALS
ALLEN BAYNE & CO: 10 short term... Call 01753 22222

OVERSEAS TRAVEL
PORTUGAL & CHARTE: All... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS 96
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

TRAILFINDERS
Low cost flights worldwide... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

GIFTS
A BIRTHDAY: 100... Call 01753 22222

SPECIALISTS
YOU should write a book... Call 01753 22222

WANTED
ALL GRINDERS: 100... Call 01753 22222

OVERSEAS TRAVEL
PORTUGAL & CHARTE: All... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS 96
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

TRAILFINDERS
Low cost flights worldwide... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
GERMANY: Daily low cost... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTRACTORS: 100... Call 01753 22222

CAPITAL FLIGHTS
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

UP TO 60% DISCOUNT
SCHEDULED FLIGHTS... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS 96
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

TRAILFINDERS
Low cost flights worldwide... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTRACTORS: 100... Call 01753 22222

CAPITAL FLIGHTS
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

UP TO 60% DISCOUNT
SCHEDULED FLIGHTS... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS 96
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

TRAILFINDERS
Low cost flights worldwide... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
ALBERT & SONS: 100... Call 01753 22222

ANNOUNCEMENTS
How near we are to the cure... depends on you.

LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND
45 Great Ormond Street, London WC1R 3BT

Kidney Research Saves Lives
Please help with a donation now and a legacy later

Scotland from £29
01582 4455 66

FLIGHTLINE
Flights from 16 UK Airports

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY
We support mental health care for ex-service men and women

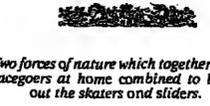
COMBAT STRESS
The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society cares for men and women from the services who serving members of mental health at our community centres and voluntary homes

ANNOUNCEMENTS
SOCIETY: 100... Call 01753 22222

CHANGE OF WEATHER. Last night skating on the Serpentine was again carried on with great spirit. There was a display of fireworks and various novel amusements. The ice was stated to be nearly 13 inches thick. There is to be a fair on the Serpentine on Monday night, unless the thaw which commenced yesterday should happily put a stop to the late severity of the season. All the parks were crowded yesterday, but no accident of consequence is reported. The weather at Worcester, which has been most intense, appeared yesterday to be changing, a partial thaw having set in. The Severn is still frozen up above Worcester, all navigation stopped, and a most remarkable spectacle has been presented nightly during the week on the Worcester Race-course. This large meadow, which lies on the banks of the Severn, was flooded at the end of last week, and froze to a considerable thickness. The water receding beneath it left the ice upon the grass and a safe arena for the skaters and sliders. These

ON THIS DAY

January 12, 1861



Two forces of nature which together kept racegoers at home combined to bring out the skaters and sliders.

the poor. Scarcely any change has taken place in the state of the weather in the eastern counties, with the exception of dense fogs in the evening succeeding to very heavy atmosphere during the day. The thermometer has in no instance since Thursday, that we have heard of, risen above freezing-point. All the rivers are completely blocked, and trade at the ports of Maldon, Colchester, Ipswich, Woodbridge, and other places, is almost suspended, the owners of vessels preferring to lie at anchor rather than run any risks. The consequence has been a very considerable advance in the price of sea-borne coals, thereby adding another evil to the already multiplied sufferings of the poor. It is now found that large bodies of agricultural labourers must seek relief in Union houses, tenant farmers most reluctantly parting with them in consequence of their inability to follow any out-door occupation. New discoveries of cases of most intense suffering are being made daily, and already the Union houses are rapidly filling.

NEWS

Thatcher on Tory unpopularity

Baroness Thatcher delivered a punishing blow to John Major's attempts to bind the Conservative Party together when she scorned the "one-nation" Tory tradition and accused his Government of betraying the middle classes.

The Prime Minister's hopes of a new year truce between his party's warring factions were blown apart as his predecessor said that the party was in trouble because Tory performance and policies had not lived up to its principles. Pages 1, 2, 9

Mitterrand families stand together

The two families of François Mitterrand were united for the first time at his funeral, in accordance with his last wishes. Anne Pinget, the former French President's mistress, and their daughter Mazarine, stood alongside Danielle Mitterrand, her two sons and grandchildren. Pages 1, 10

Juice price held

Britons were spared a 30p-a-litre rise in the price of fresh orange juice after the European Commission answered a Government appeal by postponing a tariff on imported oranges. Page 1

Royal fan arrested

Bernard Quinn, an obsessed fan of the Princess Royal, was arrested in Liverpool last night 25 minutes before she was due to attend an official engagement in the city. Page 1

Britons kidnapped

Troops were sent into the Indonesian jungle to rescue four British biologists kidnapped by separatist guerrillas. Page 3

Carling split

The marriage of Will Carling, the England rugby captain, and his wife Julia is to end after just 15 months together. Page 3

Tornado crashes

Two more RAF crewmen escaped when another Tornado crashed during a training flight in Germany. It was the third Tornado lost in two days after a mid-air collision on Wednesday. Page 5

Branson challenger

Richard Branson faces a new challenger in the race to become the first balloonist to fly round the world. Henk Brink, a 52-year-old Dutch helicopter pilot and adventurer, expects to launch his attempt from Nijmegen. Page 5

Sex Pistols plan a comeback

The Sex Pistols, the spitting standard-bearers of punk who incited a generation to rebel against their elders and to reject ageing pop stars, are threatening to regroup just as they are turning 40. The 1970s band, vilified for describing the monarchy as a fascist regime, hope to begin a world tour in America in the spring. Page 7

NHS under strain

Hospitals are cracking under the strain of a surge in emergency admissions that has caused casualty units to close and patients to be turned away, doctors' leaders said. Page 6

Medical Briefing

A sensitive scalp and pain behind the eye may be a sign of a condition that must be treated immediately, says Dr Thomas Sturtaford. Page 7

Ducks spared

Plans to cull Britain's most notorious duck are to be abandoned because ministers fear the sight of dead birds will infuriate animal lovers. Page 8

Clinton 'bankruptcy'

President and Mrs Clinton's legal costs of £1.36 million in fighting the Whitewater and Paula Jones cases have put them "on a collision course with bankruptcy", said Money magazine. Page 11

Patten's plea

Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, challenged Peking not to establish a "counterfeit" Legislative Council and vowed to continue to call for democracy and the rule of law. Page 12

German gloom

Fresh proof of trouble in the German economy increased a wave of pessimism over the prospects for achieving the launch of a single European currency. Page 13



François Mitterrand's daughter Mazarine is kissed by her mother Anne Pinget at the funeral of the former French President. Pages 1, 10

BUSINESS

Woolwich: More than three and a half million savers and borrowers will receive average payouts of £1,000 when the third largest building society becomes a stock market company in 1997. Page 21

Economy: British manufacturing activity was stagnant in November, prompting speculations on another rate cut. Page 21

Granada: Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager that helped Granada win LWT, has been buying more Fortis shares prompting speculation that Granada is likely to win. Page 21

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 16.6 to 3654.9. Sterling's index fell from 83.1 to 83.0 after a fall from \$1.5452 to \$1.5450 and from DM2.2225 to DM2.2212. Page 24

SPORT

Cricket: England won the second one-day international in Bloemfontein, beating South Africa by five wickets with just 10 balls to spare. Page 40

Football: Kevin Keegan, the bookmakers' favourite to succeed Terry Venables as England coach, ruled himself out of the running after speaking to his club's chairman, Sir John Hall. Page 40

Rugby union: France have made six changes for their opening five nations' championship match against England. Page 36

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, the British No. 1, continued his impressive build-up to the Australian Open by reaching the semi-finals of the Peters International tournament in Sydney. Page 37

Spanish import

The British, it seems, are just mad about flamenco. And it's never been more ambitious than in a cow - and not altogether successful - show at Sadler's Wells. Page 32

New albums: David Sinclair in praise of Ocean of Sound, a stunning exploration of the natural and manufactured sounds of music. Page 33

Country lads: Who ever heard of a country band coming from Florida? Well, the Mavericks do and they are now the Country Music Association's Vocal Group of the Year. Page 33

Tourist art: Christie's mounts a fascinating new show that portrays Brazil through the eyes of early European visitors. Page 34

A royal story

The biographer, Sarah Bradford, talks to Valerie Grove about the Queen. In celebration of Her Majesty's 70th birthday this spring, Ms Bradford is publishing a biography. Page 14

Big smoke: In America the sale of cigars is increasing and the most surprising aspect is that it is now women who most enjoy puffing on long, expensive cigars. Page 15

Who's in: Those who didn't make it again will be affecting disdain but most are delighted to be asked to join the great and good in Who's Who. Page 15

Educated guess: Should students pay more for higher education? At present the loans system is not producing a return for the Student Loans Company. Page 30



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ONE MAN'S MEAT Richard Girling on fact and fantasy in the battle for our stomachs and minds

BOOKS Julian Barnes on his book, Cross Channel; Valerie Grove's life of Dodie Smith



China's orphanages

happiness and winning the lottery; Charles Darwin's finch. Page 17

Marion Wilberforce, aviator; Gordon Adam, former general manager and director of Barclays Bank; Kenneth Neve, vintage car enthusiast; Geoffrey Pardoe, consultant engineer. Page 19

Until China has a government that is accountable to its citizens, its reputation and its people will be vulnerable to reports like the children in these orphanages. Wall Street Journal. If this is what The New York Times means by global warming, well, you can imagine there are lots of people who would hate to see what global cooling feels like. Yes, a few more weeks of warming like this one, and everyone may freeze to death. Washington Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,062

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the starting squares. The grid is 15 squares wide and 15 squares high.

- ACROSS
1 Habituate to charge: reduced by male (8).
6 Bog plant's captivated artist (6).
9 Mother bird gets wet (6).
10 Something Joseph achieved, finding rooms not free (8).
11 Bob, in the old days, showing good manners (8).
12 Some hawthorn at Easter is flowery (6).
13 I'll be found in long-established secret society (5).
14 One keeps to the bed mostly, taking part by oneself (5,4).
17 Celtic chief found prison to be boring (9).
19 Lower in volume, as being very loud (5).
22 Virtually nothing received by charity by end of Lent (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,061. A grid of letters corresponding to the crossword puzzle, with some letters in bold to indicate the solution.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table with 4 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Lists various UK locations like Greater London, West Sussex, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with 4 columns: Area, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Lists road network areas like London & SE, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with 4 columns: Location, High, Low, Wind. Lists weather stations like Aberdeen, London, etc.

FORECAST

General: Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a lot of cloud, with a little sun. There will be some mostly light rain or drizzle over eastern and northern Scotland, while heavier outbreaks of rain will move from Northern Ireland into southern and western Scotland during the day.

AROUND BRITAIN

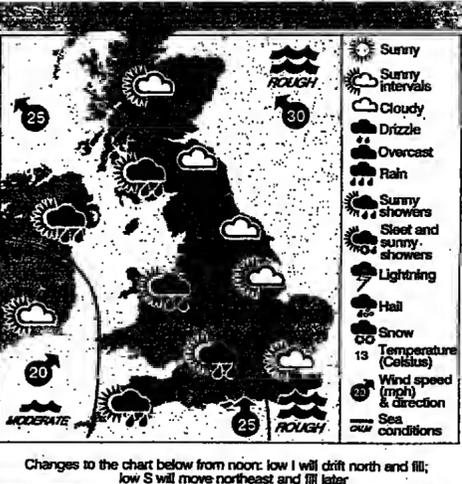
Table with 4 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Lists various UK locations like Aberdeen, London, etc.

FORECAST

longly spells of rain spreading from west. Wind fresh, perhaps strong, southeast to southerly. Max 10C (50F).

AROUND BRITAIN

Table with 4 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Lists various UK locations like Aberdeen, London, etc.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low I will drift north and fill; low S will move northeast and fill later



Table with 4 columns: Location, AM, HT, PM, HT. Lists weather data for various UK locations like London, Aberdeen, etc.

A large vertical advertisement for 'The Times' newspaper, featuring the masthead 'THE TIMES' at the top and 'British' at the bottom. The ad includes a large headline 'Thatcher's last failure: Major' and other text promoting the newspaper's content.